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GLORY STARS HELP SOCEROO'S CAUSE

By Mark Stavroulakis

The Socceroos registered their first victory of the Oceania Nations Cup last Saturday night in Auckland after defeating an organised Vanuatu side two-nil.

After scores were deadlocked at nil-all on the break, Perth Glory strikers Damien Mori and Bobby Despotovski were at hand to gift the green and gold three valuable points.

It was Mori's 27th international goal for the Socceroos as his 69th minute strike

kick-started Australia's progress towards the final of the Nations Cup.

Mori's goal lifted the weight off Australia's shoulders as Vanuatu played a demanding role in controlling the midfield, while their defence was hard to break at times.

All was won in the 81st minute when Glory's other star striker Bobby Despotovski, came on as a substitute to score the final goal which gave the lucky Socceroos their share of the points.

The match itself produced some controversy especially during the first half when

Farina's men were denied two strong penalty claims.

Vanuatu had the best chance to take a surprising lead in the first half when a stunning attack was thwarted by Olympic Sharks young gun and Soccer debutant Jade North, who produced some quality defending to deny the tiny Pacific Island side their opening goal.

As expected, it took time for the Socceroos to settle in their pattern as the majority of the squad had just come back from an off-season break.

Captain and Melbourne Knights star

Steve Hornet stated after the match that Vanuatu were a tough side to break and added that the side will get better as the tournament wears on. "They (Vanuatu) were a well organised and hard to break down and it was our first game together as a team. We will get better as the tournament goes on, there's a lot of improvement to come," ended Horvat.

The match proved sentimental for four players (Patrick Kisnorbo, Jade North, Tom Pondeljak and Ante Milicic), as the quartet all made their debuts for the Australian side.

Group A's other match saw Fiji defeat New Caledonia whom the Socceroos will face in the coming days before the Semi-Finals (July 12th) and finally the Grand-Final (July 14th).

The Socceroos line-up: Jason Petkovic (GK), Fausto De Amicis, Patrick Kisnorbo, Mehmet Durakovic, Steve Horvat (C), Jade North, Milan Blagojevic, Tom Pondeljak (Trimboli 64'), Scott Chipperfield (Robbie Middleby 72'), Damien Mori, Ante Milicic (Despotovski 64'). Cautions: P. Kisnorbo, S. Chipperfield.



Action shots from the recent Oceania Nations Cup match between Australia and Vanuatu.

BLATTER TO VISIT AUSTRALIA

FIFA President Sepp Blatter is set for a visit to Australia in early August and is the ideal time for Australia to push its claim for automatic entry to the World Cup.

Acting SA chief executive Greg Bates said Blatter's visit would be a good opportunity to do some lobbying and told AAP "He's (Blatter) looking forward to swinging down (to Australia) and making sure the message gets through that FIFA is right behind us."



FIFA President Sepp Blatter will be visiting Australia, in early August.

"It's an issue of trying to generate as much good will as we can out of the World Cup and giving a bit more optimism in the code than what's been evidenced in the past few months," said Bates.

Further to the issue of the national side, Bates also revealed much of the Socceroos' schedule for the rest of the year, with a confirmed game against World Cup quarter-finalists the United States, in the US, in early November.

He said SA had also secured games against other World Cup teams, South Korea and South Africa with dates to be confirmed.

Several European games are also understood to be on the agenda including a possible match-up against Portugal.

He added that Farma's position was totally secure regardless of the result from the Oceania Nations Cup, which begins in Auckland on Friday.

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AUSSIES ABROAD

BY BINESH MUDALIAR

Following the conclusion of the 2002 World Cup, several transfers involving Aussies have been made official.

Goalkeeper Les Pogliacomi has commenced pre-season training with Oldham Athletic and when asked how he was finding life in England, the former Wollongong Wolves and Parramatta Power star told the official Oldham Athletic website,

"Fortunately we speak the same language and I think that is always a barrier when you move to a new country if you don't speak the lingo...but because it's all the same, I'm finding it pretty good and I enjoy Manchester life."

Pogliacomi joined Oldham on a free transfer and will remain at Boundary Park until June 2004.

Socceroo striker Clayton Zane completed his move from Lillestrom in Norway to Belgium's Anderlecht for 2,500,000 Euros. Zane's contract with Anderlecht expires in June 2006.



Eddie Thompson:
Recommended Kevin Muscat to Glasgow Rangers.

Right-back Lindsay Wilson joined Dutch club PSV Eindhoven for £275,000 from Sydney Olympic. Wilson's contract with one of Europe's biggest clubs expires in June 2007.

Socceroo right-back Kevin Muscat completed his highly publicized move from Wolverhampton

Wanderers to Glasgow Rangers on a free transfer. Rangers' manager Alex McLeish told Soccernet, "Kevin Muscat signed a few weeks ago. He will bring experience and is a solid pro.

"We have good endorsements for him from past coaches, none more so than (former Australia coach) Eddie Thompson, who I played with at Aberdeen.

"Eddie rates Kevin very highly, but we also did our homework. We watched him in a few games and he looked like he would be a good squad acquisition."

Another Australian heading to Ibrox Park will be Ben Stevens of Northern Spirit, following trials last season.

Youth coach at Rangers, Jan Derk, told the official Rangers website, "We looked at three Northern Spirit players and one we have signed is Ben Stevens.

"He still has to learn reading the game but he is extremely quick."

18-year-old Stevens is the first player to sign for the legendary Scottish club since a partnership was signed between Rangers and Spirit two years ago.

Goalkeeper Peter Zois may be without a club for the upcoming season after the Dutch football federation last week informed his club, NAC Breda, that they will not be offered a playing licence for the 2002/2003 season.

The official NAC Breda website stated that the reasons for the authorities not permitting NAC to play were the lack of a main and/or shirt sponsor and the inability to cope with a solvency deficit. NAC Breda will appeal to the Dutch Federation within 14 days of their original decision. 24-year-old Zois is in the final year of his

contract with NAC.

Mark Viduka has married his long-time girlfriend Ivana Husidic in a ceremony in the ancient fortress of Lovrijenac in Dubrovnik.

Viduka also revealed that the couple were expecting a baby. The Socceroo striker is currently honeymooning on his luxury yacht.

While the World Cup was in full swing, there was at least one Aussie in action, that being Kasey Wehrman of Norwegian club Moss. The former Perth Glory star has strung together a number of 90-minute performances this season except for the game against Valerenga on June 10, when he was sent off in the 71st minute following two cautions.

If Ajax reserve goalkeeper Joe Didulica goes out on loan again next season it may not be to the Ajax-owned Belgian club Germinal Beerschot Antwerp.

Ajax have a 72.5%

stake in GBA but are keen to sell their majority shareholding.

Didulica played two league games for GBA last season before heading back to Ajax and playing eight league games for the famous Amsterdam club.

19-year-old Southampton striker Scott McDonald has been loaned to Huddersfield Town for



Scott McDonald:
On loan to Huddersfield Town.

three months.

Huddersfield Town manager Mick Wadsworth told The Guardian, "McDonald is a player that I have been looking at for a while. I was working with him over the summer. He's got great pace, he's strong and he's a good finisher."

"His first-team chances were limited at Southampton and this is a very good chance for him."



Steve Corica: Returns to international action next month.

McDonald was also being courted by Swansea City boss Nick Cusack who wanted the Victorian on loan for the entire 2002/2003 season.

While the rejuvenated Steve Corica will not be playing for Australia in the Oceania Cup, he will be playing again for a national team for his club, Walsall.

The Saddlers play the Malawi national team on August 2 at Cross Keys Stadium in a pre-season fixture arranged by the English FA as a part of their international development programme.



number three on the goalkeeper's pecking order at Elland Road behind Nigel Martyn and Paul Robinson and McAllister will need to replace Spain-bound Magnus Hedman.

AEL Limassol of Cyprus and Japanese club Kyoto are in negotiations regarding the transfer of former QPR midfielder Ned Zelic.



Ned Zelic: On his way to Cyprus?

Millwall chairman Theo Paphitis has confirmed that the London club has not received an offer from Aston Villa for midfieler Tim Cahill. Australian-born Cahill, who is a Samoan international, scored 13 goals for the Lions last season.



Tim Cahill: No offer from Aston Villa.

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OCEANIA NATIONS CUP

GROUP A:

NEW ZEALAND 4 TAHITI 0
PAPUA NEW GUINEA 0 SOLOMON ISLANDS 0

NEW ZEALAND 9 PAPUA NEW GUINEA ... 1
TAHITI 3 SOLOMON ISLANDS 2

	Pld	Won	Draw	Lost	For	Ag	Pts
NEW ZEALAND	2	1	2	0	13	1	6
TAHITI	2	1	0	1	3	6	3
SOLOMON ISLANDS	2	0	1	1	2	3	1
PAPUA NEW GUINEA	2	0	1	1	1	9	1

REMAINING FIXTURES

July 8, Ericsson Stadium
Fiji v Vanuatu
Australia v New Caledonia

July 9, North Harbour Stadium
Tahiti v Papua New Guinea
New Zealand v Solomon Is

July 10, Ericsson Stadium
Vanuatu v New Caledonia
Australia v Fiji

July 12, Ericsson Stadium
Semi Final 1
Semi Final 2

July 14, Ericsson Stadium
Play-off 3-4 — 12.30pm
Grand Final — 3.30pm



Esala Masi of Fiji prepares to pass, watched by Franck Oiremoi of New Caledonia.



GROUP B:

NEW CALEDONIA 1 FIJI 2

AUSTRALIA 2 VANUATU 0

	Pld	Won	Draw	Lost	For	Ag	Pts
AUSTRALIA	1	1	0	0	2	0	3
FIJI	1	1	0	0	2	1	3
NEW CALEDONIA	1	0	0	1	1	2	0
VANUATU	1	0	0	1	0	2	0

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DUGDALE AT THE HELM OF THE KINGZ



The Football Kingz have announced Ken Dugdale as their new manager. The former All Whites coach will leave his job with Norwegian Second Division FK Vesteralen to return to New Zealand.

Kingz director Chris Turner said: "Following a strenuous review by the company of our perceived short and long-term coaching requirements, we are pleased to announce the appointment of Ken Dugdale and Stuart Jacobs as the Football Kingz coaching team for the 2002/3 season."



Ken Dugdale

"We have been committed to finding and appointing a New Zealand coaching team that clearly understood the importance of the Football Kingz to the development of the code in this country, had an in-depth knowledge of local playing talent and a clear understanding of the professional footballing environment.

"For some time we have quietly explored the potential options and format for this position.

"In being able to identify and bring together Ken and Stuart as a coaching partnership, we have been able to combine a wide range of skills. As a team, they bring to the Football Kingz a proven level of experience, vision, skill and success.

"They know the New Zealand football scene, can identify current and emerging talent that will cope with the rigors of professional football, have and support a holistic approach to team development and culture and a no-nonsense approach to ensuring success.

"Just as importantly, they both have a commitment and desire to see football grow and succeed in this country and understand the absolutely critical role the Football Kingz play in that equation."

Socceroos in Stars and Stripes Match-Up



By Daniel Kuzlow

Soccer Australia has confirmed a November match-up between Australia and recent World Cup quarter finalists the United States of America.

The US fresh from their crowning as CONCACAF champions following their emphatic 2-0 victory in the second round of the World Cup, will provide the perfect tonic for Frank Farina's side as he pre-

pares to launch the 2006 World Cup qualifying campaign.

The most recent FIFA ranking's see the US in 11th spot, while for Australia their lack of activity over the month long festival of football has seen them drop to 50th.

A great deal of criticism has been directed at the Socceroos for the failure to make the recent World Cup and much of it has centered on a lack of exposure to quality international sides.

This match scheduled for later this year will pit Australia against a US side that has brought a successful brand of football and highly talented players to the World stage.

While the contest against a side that has made the last four consecutive World Cups is of great



importance, SA chief Greg Bates believes the contest is simply one in a long succession of matches and told AAP.

"We'd like to develop a fuller program such that we can line up with a South American team on the way round and then some European teams as well."

"Soccer Australia hasn't had the luxury until recent weeks to develop these programs as our (marketing) rights were owned by another company" Mr Bates concluded.



The Socceroos will take on the United States in November.

Newcastle United Adopt The Griffiths Brothers

By Con Tagaroulias

Newcastle United has strengthened their squad by yet another two signings following Steve Eagleton's move from the Power last week.

The whole Griffiths clan have been adopted by Newcastle as Adam and Ryan have both come to the club.



Joel Griffiths

United squad. In his final game against Wollongong he demonstrated the ability many on the North side of Sydney had seen. His last two performances earned him two MOM plaudits.

Unfortunately the persistence with experience over potential, North of the bridge, has seen the 22-year limited to 28 appearances in a three-year spell.

Loan spells at Eastern Pride and Manly Warringah Dolphins have resulted in the midfielder looking further north.

Another player heading north from the Spirit is Ryan Griffiths. Griffiths turns 21 in August and complements the pace that Ian Crook has sought in strengthening his squad. Comfortable as a Striker or in a wide role, he should manage to add to his six N.S.L. goals.

Although limited to six starts and eleven appearances off the Spirit bench he did impress with a brace in a 3-2 victory over the Kingz in round nine of the previous season.

The signing's ensure Ian Crook has fulfilled a two-fold desire. The first being to add a variety of ages to his squad ensuring a future spate of retirements does not decimate the United ranks. The second desire centred on the "need for speed" that the former Tottenham Hotspurs and Norwich defender believes all "class sides" have.

In his second season as an N.S.L. coach, Ian Crook believes he may be able to be more positive when the team goes forward. With the added speed of Steve Eagleton, Ryan and

Adam Griffiths complementing the existing pace of Matthew Bingley and company, there will be ample pace available to ensure covering ground is not a problem.

United is still on the hunt for a replacement for Brad Swancott whose contract was not renewed.

The coaching ranks have seen a reshuffle of youth team coaches, with one former Australian international in David Lowe replacing Graham Jennings as the Youth team coach.

Con Constantine repeated earlier comments regarding player signing's when asked if further signing's were expected.

"I will always be prepared to strengthen our squad if quality players with the right kind attitude are made available."

Adam Griffiths will join brother Joel at Newcastle United this season.



Ryan Griffiths

RANGERS SIGN FIRST AUSSIE YOUNGSTER

By Barry Anderson

Rangers are reaping the first rewards of their two-year link-up with Australian club Northern Spirit after signing a future Aussie star at Ibrox.



Ben Stevens: Aussie youngster has just signed with Scottish Giants Glasgow Rangers.

The Scottish club have signed 18-year-old forward Ben Stevens from Spirit and he will go straight into the under-18 squad at Murray Park this season.

Rangers, youth players report back for pre-season training on Monday and Stevens will join them as the first player to arrive from the Sydney-based outfit.

Chairman David Murray recently sold 51 per cent of his Northern Spirit shares to Australian investors 4A Management but Rangers are stressing the importance of their official link Down Under.

Director of football Dick Advocaat made a spring journey to Oz to assess the Spirit operation and returned with a glowing reference on Stevens.

Youth Coach Jan Derk said: "We looked at three Northern Spirit players and one we have signed is Ben Stevens.

He was here for a couple of weeks last season and is a very fast right winger. He still has to learn reading the game but he is extremely quick.

"He is the first one to join us. We have had others here at Murray Park but it has later been discovered they weren't eligible to apply for dual nationality with a European nation because their ancestors had given up citizenship of the country of their birth."

Despite the red tape involved in recruiting some of Australia's hot young talent, Derk and fellow youth coach Tommy McLean will persist in their attempts.

Rangers believe there is a multitude of young Aussie stars waiting to be snapped up and are willing to show patience to get the men they want.

Derk added: "Although Rangers, link with Northern Spirit is not as strong financially as it was with David Murray selling 51 per cent of his shares, we want to keep the connection."

"We want to keep the Northern Spirit youth development program linked to the Rangers youth development program because Sydney is a massive place."

"They have so many football players over there and we want the best players from that area. Bill Collins at Northern Spirit can give us the names and it's up to us to get them."

"Obviously there's no guarantee we will always get who we want because everybody is scouting in Australia. One boy we wanted decided to go to Inter Milan because he had Italian parents and his father wanted him to go to Italy."

"Nevertheless we intend to keep using our connections with Northern Spirit and more players will follow Ben Stevens."

FROM MARCONI TO MORTON FOR MAISANO

By Richard Kreider

Attacking midfielder John Maisano has left Marconi Stallions to link up with his brother Marco at Scottish Division Three side Greenock Morton.

The Australian U-23 star is Morton's third summer signing as confirmed at a press conference at the club last week. The coach of the Cappielow Park club is Scottish international and ex-Carlton SC player Dave McPherson.

Maisano featured with the U23's at the 1999 Nigerian World Youth Cup, which included a goal against Saudi Arabia during the first round.

He spent a season with Italian side Atlanta prior to joining Belgian team Westerlo in 1998. There, Maisano was coached by ex-Belgian icon Jan Cuelmans and went on to make almost 40 appearances before heading back downunder a couple of years ago.

He did however, trial at Kilmarnock at the end of last season, but the failure of the proposed SPL TV channel halted any further developments.

Similarly with Marco, who made 11 appearances last season since joining Morton in March, John (23) retains an Italian passport; which means his new club will not have to worry about any work permit restraints.

Morton's first SFL game on August 3 will be away against the newly admitted Gretna, who had to beat six other clubs including favourites Airdrie United.

The vacancy was made following the demise of Airdrieonians.



John Maisano: The former Stallions star has signed with Scottish 3rd Division side Greenock Morton.

Wedding Bells!!

Wedding Bliss!! Congratulations on the picture-perfect wedding of Northern Spirit goalkeeper LOU ACEVSKI to the lovely and enchanting Katerina.

Lou and Katerina married in their hometown of Melbourne in front of a strong 400-plus family and friends, including current Spirit teammates who traveled from the Harbour City for the grand event.

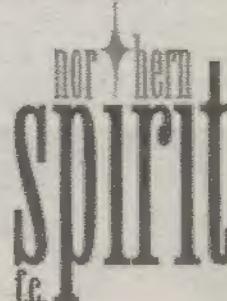
A close friend of the happy couple is ABSW's Melbourne-based Daniela Raco. She was among the party of guests invited to celebrate with the newlyweds before they jetted off to their well-deserved honeymoon escape (water-bungalows and all).

Enjoy the happy snaps! ...it's not often the Spirit lads don the tux's and ties.



By Daniela Raco

POWER CHANGE AT SPIRIT



By Daniel Kuzlow

Lauree McKinna has been appointed coach of Northern Spirit after the dismissal of former coach Mick Hickman.

The Parramatta Power assistant to David Mitchell is set to take the reigns just a couple of months after Hickman took the Spirit to the brink of the NSL finals.

Speaking to the worldgame.com.au Hickman said while not bitter about the sacking he will now look to overseas to further his coaching CV.

"I've known it was coming for quite a while - the whole thing was based on financial issues really," Hickman said. "I'm a realist, I've been in football a long, long time and I can disagree with what they are doing but if finances govern, that's the way it's got to go."

"Unfortunately finances seemed to overshadow the football, the club lost a lot of money and then they had to cut back."

After playing second fiddle to Mitchell at Power, McKinna looks set to play an important role as new coach at the fledgling north Sydney based club.

Last season, McKinna was thrust into the coaching limelight when Mitchell took the Spirit to the brink of the NSL finals.

him were mixed, Northern Spirit football director Bill Collins says McKinna was the natural choice to replace Hickman: "I think Lawrie has the experience we are looking for. He has a great deal of local knowledge as well as playing in Scotland," Collins said.



Mick Hickman: Former Spirit coach will look to overseas for a club.

PERINICH JOINS THE STALLIONS



Tony Perinich has become the latest casualty for the Wollongong Wolves as the gun striker has signed with the Marconi Stallions for next season.

The 30-year-old last season had an unhappy stint at Northern Spirit until he joined the Wolves mid-way through the season.

Apart from Perinich, Sean Babic, Buddy Farah

and Darren McDonald have all left the Wolves for the Stallions.

Marconi's football chief Rale Rasic, in his first season, expects to change to change things around at the Stallions hiring new coach Raul Blanco.

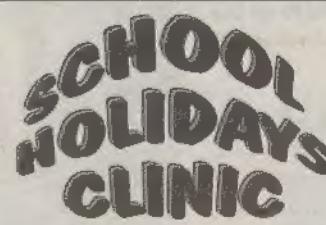
Also rumored to be on the way to Marconi is former Bonnyrigg star Vuko Tomasevic.



Tony Perinich: Former Wolves striker has joined the Stallions for the new season.



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The Victoria Chronicles



By Brendon Davis

Krnecic Splitting With South?

The rift between South Melbourne and Coach Eddie Krnecic has deepened with Krnecic returning to Melbourne after an extended period overseas.

Krnecic is said to have retained lawyers. These lawyers have written to South Melbourne informing them Krnecic is issuing legal proceedings against the club for defamation following comments allegedly made by newly elected president, Peter Mitakas on various television networks last week.

South sources say Krnecic received many phone calls and letters from South through the close season asking him to contact the club but these were supposed-



Danny Wright: QLD State Coach could take over South Melbourne if Krnecic departs.

New South Melbourne Coach?

Word about town is former star player Danny Wright will be appointed coach within a matter of days.

Only Wright and another former player, Alan Davidson have been mentioned as replacements for Eddie Krnecic. Clearly the success Wright has enjoyed in Queensland has assisted his prospects.

Wright is also said to be the players choice as coach.

Current assistant coach Jeff Olver will not be retained as assistant coach. However "he will be offered an ongoing role at the club" according to a South Insider.

Marth Continuing

Andrew Marth is continuing as coach of the Melbourne Knights. His assistant coach, Luciano Trani will continue as his assistant coach. The 33-year-old had a great year last season guiding the Knights into the top six. 'Stabba' will be looking to further that position this year.



Andrew Marth: Will be at the helm once more at the Knights this season.

Porter A Wanted Man

As the most wanted signing in the NSL, Porter has a number of options, all of which are exciting. He still hopes to be signed by a European Club.

Otherwise, Perth Glory are confident they will sign the talented former Knight.

However several other clubs have spo-

ken seriously with his management with Perth being only one option the striker has. A Sydney Club with a big budget is confident of his signature as is one of the Melbourne Clubs.



Joel Porter: One of Australia's best young talents scouted by many clubs here and abroad.

South Signing's

Almost all the squad has been resigned at Bob Jane.

Kiwi international Vaughan Coveny signed a 3-year contract this week.

Newcastle were keen to secure Coveny but he wanted to see out his playing days with South.

Durakovic and club favourite Paul Trimboli both signed one year contracts with South before flying to New Zealand on Socceroo duties.

Central defender Robert Liparoti who was also liked with Newcastle has almost completed negotiations with South. He is expected to have resigned this week.

Only Steve Panapolous has not resigned but this is understood to be a logistical problem only as he has spent the close season in his new wife's homeland of Brazil. Panapolous is also expected to resign shortly.

Over the next few weeks South expect to sign several new players but officials were remaining tight-lipped over their identity.

'Boutsi' Undecided

Where will Boutsi play? He is a frequent fixture in the food court at Chadstone Shopping Centre where he recently confirmed to fans that South haven't offered him a contract.

Boutsi had a great season up front for South once the dispute with the Kingz was resolved but he may have upset his employers on the morning of the all important final against Olympic Sharks, which South lost.

Enquiries today to South Melbourne on Boutsi were met with a firm "no comment".



Con Boutsianis: The left footed star is still yet to announce his football future.

Knights AGM

Melbourne Knights froze all recruiting and planning until their AGM which was completed last week.

The Knights refrained from signing any players including DaCosta and Joel Porter who have since departed Somers Street.

Knights General Manager Robert Hersic told ABSW "We are going into the season with a reduced playing budget. We are sustaining losses; the only way we can reduce those losses is to reduce player costs".

With the AGM concluded the Knights expect to announce several new recruits over the next few weeks.

Club President Ange Cimera announced "The Melbourne Knights would like to put to an end to recent speculation about moving venues next season. Relocating to another venue is simply not cost effective."

New Knights Sponsor

ESP Tecforce have re-signed as major sponsors of the Melbourne Knights for 2002/03.

Further good news from Somers Street is the pending announcement of a second major sponsor, which is expected to be

consummated prior to the weekend. Other sponsorship announcements can be expected prior to round one.

And South Melbourne expect to announce the identity of the new major sponsor before long.

South & Knights to Travel

Both Victorian MSL teams are heading to Asia as part of their pre-season preparation.



Massimo Murdocca: The 18-year-old former Joey Star picked up South Melbourne's rising star award.

Last year the Knights went to Vietnam, a successful excursion which is being repeated this year. Details are being finalised but the Knights expect to play three games in Vietnam.

Meanwhile South Melbourne will travel to China for a training camp and up to three friendlies. The details for South China experiment will be finalised shortly.

Young Knights Star Trialing Overseas

Young Andy Bourakis, a member of the successful Knights Youth team arrived in Austria for several trials.

Bourakis, whose father is a director at South Melbourne expects the trials to continue for 2 weeks. In addition to his work at the Knights, Bourakis was training in part with Con Boutsianis through last season.

South Awards Ball

Last Saturday night over 400 supporters, sponsors and guests attended the awards ball following South's successful 2001/02 season.

Massimo Murdocca won the South Melbourne Rising Star Award. Vaughan Coveny took out the Top Goalscorer Award while veteran Mehmet Durakovic was voted Player of the Year by the players.

Player of the Year went to Patrick Kisnorbo who is currently travelling in New Zealand with the Socceroos.

Former President George Vasilopoulos was awarded the prestigious Papasavas Award acknowledging his outstanding individual contributions to the Club.

The players partners frequently turn heads at these functions. This standard was maintained on Saturday night with the partner demanding the most attention being defender Steve Iosifidis' who was accompanied by his new baby daughter.

Eddie Krnecic: Believed to be on the rift with team South Melbourne.

ly ignored by the coach.

South are believed to be furious Krnecic left for overseas without informing the Club then remained overseas and out of contact for most of the close season. Krnecic failed to attend the clubs prestigious awards ceremony and annual ball on Saturday night.

Allegations have surfaced over recent weeks suggesting an involvement by Krnecic in the Petkovic transfer to Turkish club Trabzonspor. South Melbourne were forced to send newly elected President, Peter Mitakas to Turkey to review the contract as middlemen were said to be taking a commission of up to \$200,000.

Krnecic remains officially the coach at South Melbourne although many present at the South Ball on Saturday evening believe he has abandoned his coaching post.

South Melbourne officials are refusing to offer any comment on the Krnecic affair.

VIS TO TACKLE SCOTS IN SPAIN

By Roy Hay

Head coach Ernie Merrick is leading a Victorian Institute of Sport squad on a Spanish tour which will include four matches against their opposite numbers from Catalonia and Scottish Institute of Sport this month.

Merrick's Scottish connections are well known.

He was born and brought up there before coming to Australia, and they have been reinforced recently when he completed his European professional coaching licence under former Scottish manager Craig Brown.

The squad will be based at the Centre d'Alt Rendiment (CAR) in Barcelona and will play some Catalan teams on, before facing the Scottish Institute for the first time on Sunday.

The second match against the Scots will be on Wednesday 10 July and the team returns home the next day.

The purpose of the tour is to simulate a World Cup experience for the young players, as it is only a matter of time until some of this current squad progress to international representation.

Past Australian representatives who have come through the VIS include Scott McDonald, Joey Di Iorio and Joshua Kennedy who were members of the Joeys who finished runners-up to Brazil in the World Youth Cup in New Zealand 1999.

Olyroos at the Olympics in Sydney included Vince Grella,

Dragi Nastevski, Con Blatsis and Simon Colosimo.

The current squad consists of Christian Morales, Adrian Leijer, Dean Vasic, Manny Karas, Brendan Beni, Carl Recchia, Evan Karavitis, Sammy De Vito, Michael Sham Yuen, Ahmet Ikiz, Chris Greechan, Steve Pantelidis, Kristian Sarkies, Goran Petrovic, Ricky Chillico, Furkan Yildirim, Cameron Watson, Bobby Gorcevski and Derrick Chisholm.

Sporting them will be Head Coach Ernie Merrick; Assistant Coach Aaron Healey, Sports Scientists, Anita Pedrana and Troy Flanagan, Strength Coach Morgan Williams and Physiotherapist Jane Pihan.



Ernie Merrick: VIS Head Coach.

JURIC, HUGHES & KOHLER RE-SIGN WITH THE SHARKS

A trio from the championship winning Olympic Sharks outfit will stay in Sharks colours after agreeing to terms with the southern Sydney based club.

Defenders Ante Juric and Paul Kohler have agreed to terms with the Sharks and will be at Toyota Park for the next two seasons, while veteran custodian Brett Hughes has extended his contract for a further year.



Juric regarded by many as one of the best playing currently playing in the NSL is best remembered for his show of courage when he took the field against the Perth Glory in the Subiaco Oval Grand Final after suffering a dislocated elbow only a week before against Newcastle and is currently in New Zealand as a part of Frank Farina's squad contesting the Oceania Nations Cup.

The signing of the duo means that the bulk of last season's championship winning squad will have remained together, strengthening Olympic's chance for a second consecutive title.

Goalkeeping veteran Brett Hughes has extended his contract by a further year.

The 33-year-old will remain with the Sharks for one more season and is considered a good choice as cover for Olympic's number one keeper, Clint Bolton.

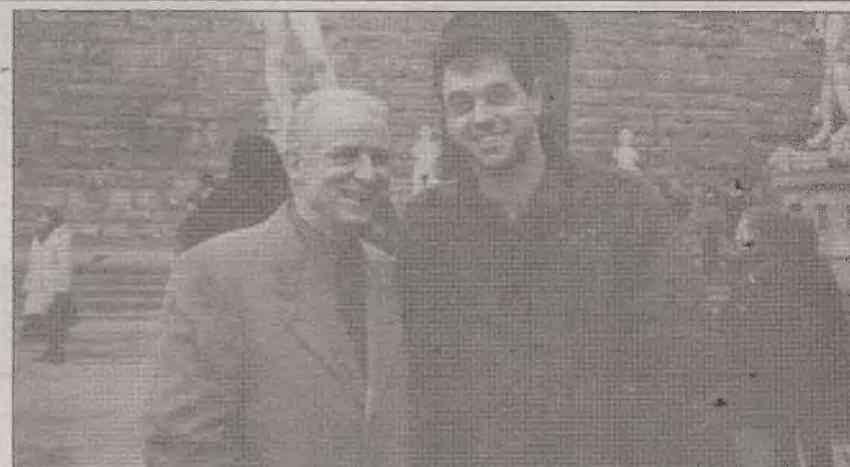
ABSW AND TRAPATTONI

While visiting Florence, Italy, in '99, ABSW's Joe Russo spotted a familiar face in the crowd amongst a few tourists.

It was none other than Italian National Coach Giovanni Trapattoni.

Russo explained that 'Trap' was extremely polite as he took the time out in speaking to him about his coaching duties at his old club Fiorentina, whom he coached at the time.

After a dismal World Cup where Italy were controversially knocked out by Co-hosts Korea, Trapattoni will still be at the helm of the Azzurri.



ABSW's Joe Russo shown here with Italian Coach Giovanni Trapattoni.

ABSW 'GIVING AWAY' THANK YOU'S

By Ben Moring

This World Cup was, if anything else, very exciting and you the readers showed your support for ABSW by entering the numerous giveaways on offer.

We would like to thank you for participation and due to the large response, we will be running giveaways throughout the upcoming European seasons.

ABSW would also like to thank the following companies and people for their contributions to our World Cup giveaways:

Jay Hemsworth and Petrol Records

Les Murray's World Game Fever COLLECTORS EDITION

**MUSIC CULTURE HISTORY PASSION
THE CUP**



Andrew Larson and Universal Music



Briony Grogan and Lonely Planet Guides



Burchin Ergin and EA Sports



Dusan Purac for his ready, set, goal videos

Your prizes really helped add to the flavour of the World Cup and ensured that the readers could play a part throughout the tournament.

THE "ARSEY" DARCY?

By Ben Moring

There would not have been many pundits that would have bravely predicted Brazil to win the recent World Cup and further more, that Ronaldo would shake off his injuries to become the Golden Boot winner.

But skills coach Dusan 'Darcy' Purac did just that. In a recent interview with this paper (May 28th, 2002), Purac was asked who would win the World Cup: "Brazil and Ronaldo will be the best player", he said.

German keeper Oliver Kahn won the Golden Ball award for the best player, but the decision was made before the final and had the judges voted after the finale, then Ronaldo may well have got the nod.

Purac teaches his version of the game akin to the skilful Brazilian way and so his belief in that style never wavered. A wise prediction from a man who has played at the top level in Europe for such teams as Novi Sad and Dinamo Zagreb and also coached former Croatian captain Zvonimir Boban and Dejan Savicevic amongst others.

Therefore it isn't surprising that many so called 'experts', who haven't played the game at any level, were well wide of the mark.

KANGA CUP COMMENCES

By Graham Cooke

The 2002 Kanga Cup International Youth competition opened in spectacular fashion on Sunday with a 20-minute parade through Canberra's main shopping centre before the 4000 competitors, representing 207 teams, squeezed into Civic Square.

A decision by Soccer Canberra organisers to bring the opening ceremony into town rather than hold it at a suburban sporting venue, was an unqualified success and officials were predicting the event will lead to increased sponsorship and greater support from the ACT Government.

One long-time observer even commented the Kanga Cup was on a springboard that will see it double its already record-breaking representation within five years.

Leading the parade were 200 players and officials from the United States, which for several years has been the major international support for the Kanga Cup. Fears that the September 11 terrorist attacks would lead to a fall-off in American attendance, proved unfounded.

China produced an under-17 boys' team with coach Ma Guo Rong predicting there would be many more in future years, especially as Canberra was now a sister city of Beijing. There were also representations from New Zealand and every Australian state and territory apart from Tasmania and the Northern Territory.

Officials were playing down the absence of Fiji, who did not follow up on an earlier undertaking to send a team, and Ghana, whose representatives had their visas refused by the Australian Government.

Competition manager Mark Louis said he had been told by the Department of Immigration that the visas would not be forthcoming. "They did not give a reason," he said.

It is not the first this has happened. Two years ago the representatives of the Republic of Georgia were refused entry, despite a team from that country having attended without incident at the previous season's competition.

Play began yesterday and will continue until the finals on Sunday.

ACT WRAP UP

By Graham Cooke

The top three teams in the ACT Premiership hit the goal scoring jackpot on Sunday, netting 20 goals between them as Canberra Deakin moved to within two points of wrapping up first place.

Deakin slammed Capital City Suns 8-1 for the biggest margin of the day. They were 4-1 up in the first 15 minutes and went on to hand the Suns their worst loss of the season.

Stephen Lee scored four for Deakin, backed by the Premiership's leading scorer, Zvonka Usjebrija, with two. Scott Manson and Alex Castro completed the rout.

Second placed Juventus virtually kept pace with the league leaders with a 7-1 win over bottom club Weston Creek Royals. Neil Stoddart claimed a hat trick with Oscar Zamora (2), George Cattanach and Matt Valeri rounding off the scoring.

The competition's youngest striker was also in form, Matthew Menser, celebrating his call-up for the Canberra Rockets squad to travel to Adelaide later this month.

claimed a hat trick in a surprisingly easy 5-0 romp over Canberra Olympic. Loric David struck the other two.

And Belconnen United recorded their first win in a month by beating Monaro 2-0 with goals from Lee Rupil and Clinton Larfield. Monaro added to their problems by having two players sent off in the second half.

United reclaimed fourth place with the win and with Monaro and the Suns going through horror spells, and the prospect of Daniel Camara's return from a 14-game suspension imposed last season, they look a good bet to hang on to it.

ACT PREMIERSHIP

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Canberra	11	9	2	0	40	6	29
Gungahlin Juv	12	7	4	1	43	21	25
Tuggeranong Juv	12	6	3	3	30	18	21
Belconnen Utd	12	5	0	7	20	22	15
Monaro	+	11	4	2	5	21	21
Capital City Suns	11	3	5	17	27	27	12
Canberra Oly	11	3	3	5	17	20	12
Weston Creek	12	6	1	11	8	50	1

Leading scorers: Usjebrija (Canberra Deakin) 17, Salloum (Canberra Olympic) 9, Lazzeri (Gungahlin Juventus) 8, Cattanach (Gungahlin Juventus) 7, Menser (Tuggeranong United) 7.



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Premier League Review By Glenn Davis

QUEENSLAND WRAP UP

By Glenn Davis

Queensland Lions coach Miron Bleiberg has dismissed nearest rivals Brisbane City as a threat to their championship aspirations despite a scoreless draw against Ipswich Knights at Eric Evans Reserve on Sunday.

Lions missed a golden opportunity to stretch their premiership lead to five points against Ipswich after Brisbane City also was held to a nil-all home draw against relegation threatened Mt. Gravatt the previous night.

Bleiberg was furious with some controversial refereeing decisions with one goal disallowed and several yellow cards handed out to his players.

"The referee didn't protect us after Ipswich came at us like kamikazes and we retaliated through frustration," Bleiberg said.

PREMIER LEAGUE - Round 15

	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
1. QUEENSLAND LIONS	15	13	0	2	40	6	41
2. BRISBANE CITY	15	12	1	2	32	14	38
3. GOLD COAST CITY	15	10	2	3	40	13	33
4. NORTH STAR	15	8	6	1	26	19	25
5. IPSW KNIGHTS	15	6	5	4	27	20	22
6. TARINGA ROVERS	15	6	6	3	20	23	21
7. WYNNUM	15	5	8	2	16	27	17
8. EASTERN SUBURBS	15	3	8	4	16	27	13
9. THE GAP	15	3	8	4	17	36	13
10. T'WMBA RAIDERS	15	2	7	6	14	23	12
11. MT GRAVATT	15	2	10	3	10	34	9
12. ROCHEDALE ROV	15	1	10	4	17	33	7

RESULTS FOR ROUND 15

IPSW KNIGHTS	0	QUEENSLAND LIONS	0
GOLD COAST CITY	1	EASTERN SUBURBS	0
BRISBANE CITY	0	MT GRAVATT	0
ROCHEDALE ROV	1	T'WMBA RAIDERS	0
WYNNUM	1	TARINGA ROVERS	1
THE GAP	3	NORTH STAR	2

FIRST DIVISION - ROUND 18

	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
1. PINE RIVERS UTD	18	15	2	1	42	12	46
2. SOUTHS UTD	18	12	3	3	46	15	39
3. BUNDABERG WAVES	18	10	5	3	39	24	33
4. MITCHELTON	18	9	5	4	45	28	31
5. CAPALABA	18	8	5	5	42	29	29
6. ROCKLEA UTD	18	9	8	1	36	36	28
7. UNI OF QLD	17	7	4	6	33	24	27
8. INALA CITY	18	7	6	5	35	30	26
9. NEWMARKET	18	8	9	1	28	27	25
10. REDLANDS UTD	18	4	9	5	26	44	17
11. ALCYONE CREEK	18	4	10	4	19	49	16
12. BRISBANE OLYMPIC UNI	18	4	11	3	11	31	15
13. GRANGE THISTLE	18	3	12	3	24	57	12
14. SLACKS CREEK	17	1	12	4	18	38	7

RESULTS FOR ROUND 18

REDLANDS UTD	0	ALCYONE CREEK	0
PINE RIVERS UTD	2	BRISBANE OLYMPIC UNI	0
NEWMARKET	1	BUNDABERG WAVES	0
CAPALABA	1	MITCHELTON	0
INALA CITY	5	GRANGE THISTLE	4
ROCKLEA UTD	1	SOUTHS UTD	1
UNI OF QLD	N/R	SLACKS CREEK	1

"They made 100 fouls and we made ten. "We hit the post twice and their keeper made two good saves but we had one goal disallowed and I still don't know why."

"I don't think Brisbane City have the quality to beat us (for the premiership) and they're only just hanging in there."

"I would be more worried if Gold Coast were in Brisbane City's position."

Ipswich coach Andy Ogden believed a draw was a fair result but was annoyed credit was not given to the Knights for a good performance.

"I thought they were lucky not to have Steve Dawe sent off after he punched Stu Drinkeld," Ogden said.

"We never seem to get any credit. It was a great turnaround after they thumped us 5-nil in the Queensland Cup midweek."

"We were good enough to hold them and they weren't good enough to break us down."

Bleiberg's comments are certain to fuel a bitter rivalry with Brisbane City.

City coach Frank Pimblett believed his side's draw with Mt. Gravatt was a mere "bump in the road" and was still confident of taking the title even before Lions' draw with Ipswich.



Miron Bleiberg: Queensland Lions coach was furious over the poor decisions made by the referee during last Sunday's match against the Ipswich Knights.

"For the last three weeks we've scored the winner in the last ten minutes but not this time," Pimblett said.

"We're still in the premiership race."

Brisbane City's trump card, Mark Battistin, has been the side's match winner in recent weeks but the side's reliance on him finding the net was revealed when the big striker was sent-off in the 80th minute.

Battistin was given his marching orders after manhandling Mt. Gravatt midfielder Alan Gordon.

The match offered few goal scoring opportunities but the ones that did eventually all fell for the home side.

Striker Glen Kolpak had one golden opportunity to break the deadlock in the first half but was denied by a superb one-on-one effort from Hawks' veteran keeper Graham Ross.

"We dominated the game and it was as good as we've played for a few weeks," Pimblett said.

"I was happy with the effort but we didn't finish off."

"Their keeper made some great saves and kept them in the game."

Mt. Gravatt coach Jarrod Austin was pleased with the point but is well aware his side is not clear of relegation.

"We've got Toowoomba next week at home then Rochedale Rovers and Wynnum," Austin said.

"At the end of the day we can't afford to worry about other results as our destiny is in our own hands."

"If we don't win or get points in these games coming up we don't deserve to be in the league."

Coach Ashley Hempstead is confident The Gap can avoid the drop to first division after a shock 3-2 win over fourth placed North Star at O'Calloghan Park on Saturday night.

The Gap's goals came from a hattrick

from striker Levi Beel who terrorised North Star's defence with his strength and speed. North Star trailed 2-nil at half time and was behind by three goals in the second half before striker Shaun Blackman and Alan Cameron tucked home two late goals to give the home side a faint hope for a draw.

"I've got one of the most inexperienced sides in the league and we're going to make mistakes," Hempstead said.

"But it was a much improved performance and we've now taken four points off North Star after drawing with them in the first round."

"I really believe this win will give us the confidence to stay up now."

Hempstead had nothing but praise for Beel's performance and a sterling defence job from Matt McKenna.

"Beel was awesome. He's a lad who doesn't realise his ability," he said.

"He carved them up. Even when we lost 5-2 to Lions he carved them up at times."

"McKenna also defended superbly."

"Shaun Blackman is big and strong and was putting a lot of pressure on us but he stopped him."

A late penalty gave Rochedale Rovers its first win of the season over Toowoomba and opened up the premier league relegation battle.

Rochedale coach Keiran Cooper felt like he'd won the premiership after midfielder Gareth Dorey made no mistake with an 80th minute penalty after Sergio Franco was brought down in the box.

"We're still alive and it gives us something to aim for now," Cooper said.

"Our first goal is to get to get off the bottom which puts us in a play off situation with the second side in first division."

"I played in quite a few premiership winning teams but the feeling was the same when we won this match."

Taringa Rovers coach John Ogden believed a costly ruling from officials denied them a win over Wynnum.

Taringa led 1-nil at half time after striker Nicky Kuyper finished off a good midfield movement but had to be content with a draw after a late goal from Wynnum's Jacob Noe.

"Nicky had a goal disallowed in the first

half from the edge of the box but the linesman ruled one of our players offside," Ogden said.

"I've always believed you can only be offside if you are interfering with play or in sight of the goalkeeper but the player wasn't."

"It was a contentious decision. Had we have been two-nil up at half time it would have been enough."

Ogden also believed Wynnum's should have been disallowed after it came from a challenge involving keeper Clint Del Santo.

"As Clint went up for the ball, Craig Collins got barreled and should have won a free-kick but play went on and they scored from it," he said.

Gold Coast picked up a valuable 1-nil win against Easts at Heath Park to stay



Gareth Dorey: Rochedale Rovers star scored his sides winning goal over the Toowoomba Raiders in last Sunday's fixture.

third after a brilliant volley from striker Daniel Fung.

Easts coach Col Bennett believed the Tigers deserved a draw but a Top Six spot would depend on the side winning six of their last seven games.

However, Bennett also was realistic enough to realise that Easts were still not out of the woods of avoiding relegation after lower placed teams picked valuable points in the relegation battle.

WEEKEND FIRST GRADE FIXTURES

◆ ROUND 16 ◆

GOLD COAST v BRISBANE CITY

QUEENSLAND LIONS v EASTERN SUBURBS

THE GAP v IPSW KNIGHTS

TARINGA ROVERS v NORTH STAR

MT GRAVATT v T'WMBA RAIDERS

ROCHEDALE ROVERS v WYNNUM

AIS JETS OFF TO PARTICIPATE IN THE MILK CUP

The cream of Australia's youth talent, the AIS, has jetted off to Northern Ireland to compete in the renowned world youth tournament, the 'Milk Cup'. Having already competed in an Italian tournament (Gradisca) in mid-April of this year, the experience of playing clubs from all over the world will no doubt benefit these future stars of Australian soccer.

The tournament will commence on the 22nd of July and will conclude on the 26th. Coach Steve O'Connor will be taking a squad of 20 players, however will only be allowed to utilize 18 of them during the tournament.

Due to unfortunate injuries to two of their players (Jobe Wheelhouse and Chris Tadrosse), O'Connor has selected three players outside the AIS to replace the injured.

At the tender of age of 16, Jacob Timpano, a current



Wollongong Wolves 1st grade player will be one of those new players taking the trip to Northern Ireland. Flaving captained the current U16 Australian squad in the Nations Cup this year, Timpano will use this tournament to further his experience as a player.

"Being new to the squad it took some time getting used to playing the AIS style of football. I've fitted in well with the team and I know I will benefit a lot during this prestigious tournament as it will give me that much needed experience on a world stage," said Timpano.

The other two new players accompanying Jacob is current VIS graduate Sam De Vito and Nick Mladanovic, who is currently playing for Victorian Premier League side St Albans in their reserve side.

The Milk Cup has been a stepping stone for many current English stars, i.e. Manchester United's David Beckham, Nicky Butt, Paul Scholes, Wes Brown, Blackburn's Damian Duff, Liverpool's Michael Owen and Danny Murphy are

just some of the many names that have participated in this prestigious tournament.

24 teams will take part in Cup from across the globe, who are then placed in eight groups of three sides.

The AIS has drawn a tough group having England's Manchester City and Argentina's Independiente as part of a tough draw for the Australians.

Other famous clubs that have entered this year's Cup include Manchester United, Leeds United, Botofogo, Panathinaikos, Notts County, Crewe Alexandria and Preston North End, followed up by a number of Irish clubs.

As part of their preparation for the Milk Cup, coach O'Connor has organized friendly hit-outs in England with Premiership clubs Liverpool, Leeds, Sheffield Wednesday and Southampton, not all have confirmed but these will surely test the Aussie boys' skill and endurance.

Many of the young stars are looking forward to the Milk Cup as they believe that good performances could lead them to top clubs overseas.

Current custodian at the AIS Adam Federici hopes that

The AIS Squad:

- Adam FEDERICI
- Ben HUGHES
- Keegan WOLFENDON
- Mark MILLIGAN
- Liam LILLY
- Ivan BOSNAR
- Frankie LAGANA
- Billy CELESKI
- Antoni JANKOVSKI
- Eli GILFEDDER
- Joel THEISSEN
- Nick STAVROULAKIS
- Stuart MUSIALIK
- Joshua FLUSS
- Mark NEDJELKOVIC
- Adam CASSEY
- Jacob TIMPANO
- Sammy DE VITO
- Nick NEDOLJEVIC
- Aaron DOWNES



AIS Squad 2002 ready to tackle the Milk Cup.

the side does well in getting to the latter stages of the tournament. "It's a good tournament to be a part of, hopefully we can do well and get into the final stages of the tournament," said Federici. Former Victorian young talent of the year winner and VIS graduate Frank Lagana will use this tournament as a stepping stone towards a possible move overseas. "I'm hoping to play well with the side and hopefully get a call-up from some overseas clubs," said the former Whittlesea Stallions player.

While current AIS centre midfielder Nick Stavroulakis was optimistic at his team's chances by saying "the Milk Cup is a tournament filled with great sides. Playing against quality opposition will only further improve us as players. Of course a lot of the boys are looking to impress clubs overseas, however to get that impression you need to perform to the best of your ability," ended the former U17 Joey.

ABSW wishes the team well and will keep readers updated on their progress in the Milk Cup.

SOCCE WOMAN BY JANENE MAR

STAKES ARE HIGH AT YOUNG MATILDAS CAMP

Twenty-one players have been named to attend the final training camp before selection of the Young Matildas Team for the inaugural FIFA U19 Women's World Championship to be staged in Canada next month.

National Women's Youth Coach Mike Mulvey will put the athletes under the microscope commencing tomorrow (Wed) to 20 July on Queensland's Sunshine Coast, the warmer winter climes closer to conditions expected in Victoria, Canada where Australia will be playing its group matches.

The eighteen-member Australian U19 Team to hold the honour of competing in the first world championship for this age group is expected to be announced soon after the conclusion of the camp. The Young Matildas' first match at Canada 2002 is just five and a half weeks after the commencement of the camp.

The camp squad includes seventeen of the eighteen players who were successful in the Oceania U19 Qualifiers in Tonga two months ago to book Australia's passage to Canada 2002.

In addition, NSW midfielder Leah Blayney receives her first opportunity to make a late charge into the team, this being her first participation in Young Matildas camp or internationals. Mulvey has also called in defenders Kathryn Collins and Rose Dunne, the pair not involved since the Central Coast International Series last August. Both are defenders, although Dunne has only recently been converted to that position by NTC Coach Mark Jones and was part of the AIS camp last month. Lorissa Stevens returns after

Young Matildas Camp – Sunshine Coast –

0-20 July 2002 :

PLAYER	STATE	HOMETOWN	DOB	POS
Leah BLAYNEY	NSW	Katoomba	04/07/86	M
Elissia CANHAM	QLD	Brisbane	29/04/85	M
Catherine CANNULI	NSW	Sydney	03/03/86	F
Kathryn COLLINS	NSW	Sydney	23/02/84	D
Hayley CRAWFORD	NNSW	Newcastle	27/03/84	F
Emma DAVISON	NSW	Sydney	04/05/85	M
Rose DUNNE	NNSW	Coffs Harbour	02/09/83	D
Katie GILL	NNSW	Newcastle	10/12/84	F
Lana HARCH	QLD	Toowoomba	23/11/84	M
Lisa HARTLEY	ACT	Canberra	06/10/84	GK
Selin KURALAY	VIC	Melbourne	25/01/85	F
Luisa MARZOTTO	ACT	Canberra	17/03/84	GK
Collette McCALLUM	WA	Perth	26/03/86	M
Kate McSHEA	QLD	Brisbane	13/04/83	D
Jessica MITCHELL	QLD	Brisbane	29/05/83	F
Caitlin MUÑOZ	ACT	Canberra	04/10/83	M
Amber NEILSON	NNSW	Newcastle	14/12/84	M
Karla REUTER	QLD	Toowoomba	14/06/84	D
Thea SLATYER	NSW	Sydney	02/02/83	D
Lorissa STEVENS	NNSW	Cessnock	08/04/85	D
Stacey STOCCHIO	SA	Adelaide	03/04/84	M

recovering from the knee injury which ruled her out of the team three days before departing for Tonga.

"We need to ensure we've got cover defensively," said Mulvey of the inclusion of Collins and Dunne for the camp. "Also, with the nature of injuries and the positions of those players, Leah has been brought in and could possibly fill a number of roles."

The camp will be a vital last assembly of players in preparation for departure for Canada. Two matches are scheduled into the ten-day program, against the Queensland State U14 Boys' Team, and the balance of the Queensland Academy of Sport Women's Squad.

Said Mulvey, "We have a couple of tough games lined up for the second part of the camp, whilst in the first part of the week we will assess the condition of the players, work on tactical play, and check those who have had time off recently through injury, to ensure we have the best possible team for Canada."

The FIFA U19 Women's World Championship will be contested 17 August to 1 September. A total of 82 countries competed in the qualifying stages of the event to determine the final twelve. Australia is drawn in Group C along with superpower USA, England, and Chinese Taipei. Also lining up in the battle for the coveted world crown are Brazil, Germany, Japan, Mexico, Denmark, Nigeria, France, and Canada.

VICTORIAN PREMIER LEAGUE

ROUND 19

Fri, 5 Jul, 8:15 PM

Whittlesea Stallions SC 3
Altona East Phoenix SC 1

(J. Tricarico 2, D. Ekić) (D. Genovese)



Sat, 6 Jul, 7:30 PM

Altona Magic SC 1 Bentleigh Greens SC 2

(Todorowski Z) (Nilk J. Karapatisov P)

Sun, 7 Jul, 3:00 PM

Port Melbourne Sharks SC 2 Preston Lions SC 2

(Pontakidis S, Tsolakis P) (Sapazarević J, Faris S)

Fitzroy City SC 1 St Albans Saints SC 0

(Miller S)

Bulleen Zebras SC 3 Heidelberg United SC 1

(Gaglicic D, Sanilli R, Harbinson B) (Lucarevski N)

Team P W D L F A Pt

1. Bentleigh Greens SC	19	9	8	2	31	19	35
2. Fawkner Blues SC	18	8	8	2	27	16	32
3. Green Gully Cavaliers SC	18	8	5	5	21	13	29
4. Port Melbourne Sharks SC	19	7	6	6	40	37	27
5. Whittlesea Stallions SC	19	6	9	4	27	27	27
6. Altona East Phoenix SC	19	6	8	5	22	20	26
7. Altona Magic SC	19	6	6	7	27	24	24
8. Preston Lions SC	19	6	6	7	25	24	24
9. St Albans Saints SC	19	6	4	9	15	25	22
10. Fitzroy City SC	19	5	4	10	15	25	19
11. Bulleen Zebras SC	19	4	6	9	26	28	18
12. Heidelberg United SC	19	4	6	9	26	44	18

Round 16

Sun, 16 Jun, 3:00 PM

Bentleigh Greens SC v Fawkner Blues SC

Preston Lions SC v Bulleen Zebras SC

Altona East Phoenix SC vs Green Gully Cavaliers SC

St Albans Saints SC vs Altona Magic SC

Fitzroy City SC vs Port Melbourne Sharks SC

Heidelberg United SC v Whittlesea Stallions SC

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Letters to the Editor

TOP WORLD CUP COVERAGE ABSW!

Dear Sir,

Congratulations on your World Cup coverage. I was truly impressed by your in depth analysis, using your many different correspondents and in your match reports.

Regrettably I was unable to catch every game of the World Cup, yet caught the replays of the goals on television. I was delighted that when I picked up a copy of your paper, I was able to relate the goals to the context of the match and I must say thoroughly the styles of the reports that came with your many journalists.

Your colour page spread was terrific as you managed to capture as many elements of this tournament as possible. They added to the vibrancy of your reports and helped bring it as close as possible to the soccer lovers of Australia.

I however would like to suggest that this level of coverage continues for major international competitions. We saw how the general public was gripped by the World Cup and am confident that we have received many new converts to the game.

You as the only paper to concentrate solely on soccer have a mission to continue to promote the world



EDITOR'S NOTE: The World Cup for everyone at ABSW was one that will be remembered forever. For most of us here at the offices it was our first taste at an event such as huge as the World Cup. Every week we at ABSW had a new task in delivering the best possible information to the readers.

I'd like to say thank you to our six World Cup correspondence (Rale Rasic, Colin Turner, Craig Foster, Alain Barataud, Peter Katholos and Kelly Cross) for providing us with the a weekly column on the Cup itself. It was an amazing event, not just in a soccer sense, but by media standards, was brilliant for the game as it good top priority in Australia – something it hardly gets every other year.

SOCEROOS IN NEW ZEALAND

Dear Sir,

I think it will be interesting to see how Australia fares at the upcoming Oceania Nations Cup tournament.

While the side only contains one overseas based player in Scott Chipperfield (he should be congratulated on his choice to pay his own way to represent his country), the make-up of the squad is quite a healthy mix of the old heads of the NSL and the up and coming stars.

Their collective skill should easily overcome the island nations and by the time the final comes about should be in practice enough to overcome what should be the All-Whites. Their participation in this tournament will only serve to improve their reputations and help in their exposure on the international scene.

Which brings me to my next point. Paul Okon was seen on the World Cup Show and what I fail to understand is why he did not put up his hand to be a part of the Socceroos squad. It is obvious that he was not tied up with any overseas commitments, as he was more than happy to be a guest on SBS' show and more than happy to venture back home to Australia for an off-season break.

As the Australian captain he is not giving a particularly good example as to the meaning entailed in this

role and to me displays sheer contempt to his fellow soccer players for not declaring himself available for the tournament, when it is plainly obvious he was in Australia when Frank Farina was assembling his squad for their New Zealand adventure.

Good Luck to those players who were more than happy to pay their own way for the sake of the green and gold. To the others take a good look at yourself.

Soccer in this country would be improved greatly if those European prima-donnas recognized that this sport had given them the opportunity to become what they are and they should be willing to give back to the game that has given them so much!

Sam Ashton,
Belconnen, ACT.

EDITOR'S NOTE: The current Socceroos will no doubt make the country proud in the up and coming Nations Cup. The squad mainly consists of the best NSL talent at the moment, and even though they've been classed as 'Dad's Army', they will all do the job no questions asked.

As for Paul Okon, I can't comment on his situation, however it is strange that being in the country, he was not selected for the Nations Cup. I assume he's in the process of looking for a club, time will only tell.

CHIPPERFIELD - A GREAT STORY

Dear Sir,

Reading last week's edition I was delighted to read an article on Scotty Chipperfield.

Long has the media forgotten about this man who has done great things for Australian soccer. It's always the case that we hear in other papers about Viduka, Kewell etc., all good players, but someone tell these people that there are loads more Aussies out there.

Credit to your paper for giving Scotty the recognition he deserves,

being the only international in the current Socceroo squad, it only justifies my point of not only being a good player, but a patriotic one as well.

Walter Hugens,
Balgownie, NSW.

EDITOR'S NOTE: It was a pleasure interviewing Chipperfield for the paper, his professionalism is second to none. He has done great things overseas and unfortunately they have gone unnoticed in this country. Expect to hear more updates on the man that could fair in the French Champions at next season?



Scott Chipperfield

ABSW ALL THE WAY!



Dear Sir,

Just a quick note about the top exposure the World Cup had in the paper this past month. It was a joy to read, I'm from Parkes, and the TV coverage was not enough for all of us to indulge in, we wanted more.

Credit to the paper that covered it so well with reports from every match, I don't think you missed one out, and the photos were fantastic.

Steven Mills,
Parkes, NSW.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Cheers for the comments, as I mentioned in the other letter it was a pleasure to cover such an event, glad that many people enjoyed the coverage!

BRING BACK THE UNDER 16'S COMPETITION!

Dear Sir,

I've an interesting question for the New South Wales Soccer Federation.

A few months ago a question was asked about the return of the Under-16s Division to the Youth League competition.

No answer was given that I know of, apparently as there was a new President elected. Now that we have a new President, what about an answer?

Six months down the track there's still no answer.

I feel sorry for the kids who will need to make a decision soon about their soccer future.

Why doesn't the NSWSF ask at the grassroots level about what the kids and the parents want?

Considering that the parents are almost always the ones that run the clubs, even at Youth League level, and that they are the ones that run the kids from Newcastle to Nowra week in week out, don't they have a say?

There are a lot of kids and parents who, I'm sure you'll find, have totally differing views and opinions as to how the game should be run than the few supposedly smart people at the top level who think they know all the answers.

Remember that these are the parents who pay the levy through the State Federations for Soccer Australia to survive.

We have State Under 16s, and a Young Joeys National team composed mainly of 16 year olds, and yet no Youth League Under 16 competition.

Where will the kids from the Premier Youth League Under 15s and other divisions go because some clubs only have true Under 17s, not Under 16s, in their top age group, eg: Leichhardt Tigers?

Let some people have the guts to give us an answer. I think we want our Under 16s back next season!

S. Rossi,
Bossley Park

RESPONSE From NSWSF's Corporate Communications, Media & Marketing Manager Adam Mark.

Dear S. Rossi

Thank you for your letter regarding the New South Wales Soccer Federation (NSWSF) Youth League and the issue of an U/16's competition.

To give you a little background to this issue, at the beginning of the 2000 season, the NSWSF introduced a Premier League which was a Summer First Grade and U/19's competition.

The clubs identified that there was a large age gap between U/16 to U/19 and players found it difficult progressing to the senior ranks. As a result, in the following 2001 Super Youth League season an U/17 competition replaced the U/16's. With the success of this initiative, in the following 2002 season all Youth League Competitions comprised of U/13, U/14, U/15 & U/17's.

Recent research conducted by the NSWSF Assistant Competition Secretary (Youth Competition), Mr Bruce Waterhouse, on the NSWSF U/17 age group across the Premier, Super and Division One Youth Leagues has found that:

- Of the 648 registered players across all U/17 Leagues, 46.14% (299 players) are actually U/16

- In the Premier Youth League 43.25% of U/17 players are actually U/16

- In the Super Youth League 46.04% of U/17 players are actually U/16

- In Division 1 Youth League 49.08% of U/17 players are actually U/16

- Only one club (Leichhardt Tigers) has no U/16 players

The reason that the Nationals are U/16's is because that particular tournament is part of the selection process for the Under 17 National team (The Joeys), who then compete in the FIFA Under 17 World Championships which are held every 2 years (2003 tournament to be held in Finland).

ATTENTION ALL BAYERN MUNICH SUPPORTERS!

Dear Sir,

I am wishing to let your readers that I really keen on getting on contact with fans of FC Bayern Muenchen. It has dawned on me that arguably one of the world greatest and most prestigious football clubs has never had any sort of fan club in Australasia.

At the moment there are organised Bayern supporters in

countries Kenya to China, and from Austria to Venezuela. So I reckon it is time that something was organised here in Australia, as I have seen heaps of people in FCB shirts at both NSL and Socceroo games.

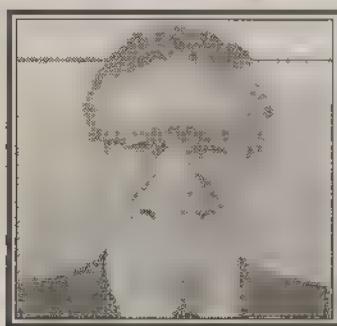
If you ARE a passionate supporter of FC Bayern, and are keen on getting something organised, you can get in contact with me (in either English or German)

on 0438 890 490 or by email at redwhitefanatic@yahoo.com. Be you an expat Bavarian or a non-German speaking Aussie, I would love to hear from you!

Hier regiert der FCB!

Julian Farrell
EDITOR'S NOTE: Come on you Bayern supporters, all the information is here for you, join the cause for a quality world side.

OFF THE CROSSBAR



By Allan Crisp

GALAXY SHOOTING FOR LEAGUE AND CUP DOUBLE

Two moments of magical skill from two of South Australia's most talented players Jimmy Tsekini and Anthony Deptula decreed that Adelaide Galaxy and Croydon Kings should contest the West End Federation Cup final on Saturday, August 17.

Former Youth Socceroo Tsekini performed his match saving act when his star-studded Galaxy team was two goals down to cup holders, the Playford Patriots.

At that delicate stage of the second semi-final, Playford deserved its lead and had a firm grip on the trophy, courtesy of a 16th minute strike from Damien DiMella and a fine insurance goal by Shane Pearce, three minutes before half time.

Galaxy were disadvantaged by the absence of ace midfielder Aaron Westervelt (suspended), Damian Stam (suspended) and Con Kokkinopoulis (injured), while the Patriots went into the big game minus Tom Radford (injured), Neil Childs (suspended), James Monie (cup tied to Adelaide City) and Sam Farncombe (cup tied to Enfield Falcons).

Galaxy coach Milan Ivanovic changed his formation and his personnel from the start of the second half by introducing Nick Dawes for Andy Amegashie and Dustie McGregor for Shane Thompson.

The lively McGregor had an immediate impact, providing more opportunities for former South Melbourne players Tsekini and George Goutzioulos.

Not that the Galaxy were starved of scoring chances in the first half, but when they did manage to penetrate the iron clad Patriots defence of Mario Stalari, Andy Thomson and Lee Robertson, ex-

Melbourne Knights goalkeeper David Miller provided magnificent support.

The big man loomed as unbeatable until the 78th minute intervention of "Jinking" Jimmy Tsekini, who waltzed into the D to fire an unstoppable drive past Miller.

That was to be a breakthrough of enormous proportions as Galaxy lifted its game to force an unlikely recovery.

Substitute McGregor nodded home to level at 2-2 with just three minutes of normal time left, before supplying a pass for Tsekini to ram a shot against the near post on the stroke of 90 minutes.

Extra time brought extra thrills with Pearce firing over the Galaxy crossbar in his quest for the golden goal before Miller tipped the ball over his goal to save Lucas



Jimmy Tsekini: Former South Melbourne star scored and played a leading role in Galaxy's win over the Patriots.

DaRocha the embarrassment of an own goal

It was left to lanky Dawes to grab the golden moment in the 113th minute as he rammed in a low drive that flicked into the net via the inside of the post.

CROYDON CUP KINGST

The fluctuating fortunes of State League club Croydon Kings took an upward swing on Wednesday night when they toppled Premier League team Raiders with a Golden Goal extra-time win in the first West End Cup semi-final at Hindmarsh Stadium.

Croydon won the famous knock-out trophy in 2000, but the following season was relegated to the State League.

Now, two years on, the Kings are on the cusp of a stunning league and cup double

and staring at the bright prospect of returning to the Premier League in season 2003.

On their way to the final, Croydon downed State League opponents Cobras and Northern Demons before chopping out tall poppies Adelaide City and Raiders.

Wednesdays assignment was never going to be easy as Raiders attempted to erase the infamy of only winning one of their last four league games.

Raiders steamed onto the right track with a 57th minute goal from State team striker Sam Barbaro who wriggled into the Croydon box to slant a drive past Kings custodian Danny Christison.

However, the notion that Croydon was more a Premier League team in waiting than a State League outfit, became increasingly evident as Shane Porter directed defensive operations from his sweeper spot, while the Woods brothers Marc and Craig, and Josh Richardson teamed effectively with Sam McMillan.

Croydon coach Ernie Luongo thrust Anthony Deptula into the cup cauldron in the 63rd minute, a substitution that was to prove a master stroke.

Eight minutes from full time, Deptula rewarded his coach by rising to meet a cross from Brad Donovan to flick a deft header past Raiders goalkeeper Mate Maric for the crucial leveller.

The artful conditions were momentarily forgotten in the 112th minute of extra-time as Deptula netted the most golden of glittering goals to send Croydon into its second cup final in three years.

Initially, Deptula drove a close range shot goalwards that Maric did well to redirect to the eager predator.

Deptula responded brilliantly by leaping to execute a magnificent bicycle kick, an overhead that sent the Croydon fans into ecstasy.

That goal of the tournament was worthy of the Golden Goal tag and certainly provided a fitting fashion to claim a place in the final.

WEST END CUP

SEMI-FINALS

Galaxy 3 (Tsekini 78, McGregor 87, Dawes 113th Golden Goal) Playford Patriots 2 (DiMella 16, Pearce 42).

Croydon Kings 2 (Deptula 82, 112th Golden Goal) Raiders 1 (S. Barbaro 57).



Ange Postecoglou: Australian Youth Coach has been given the task of guiding the 'Australs' to victory in the Festival Cup.

COLD COMFORT

Croydon Kings player Brad Donovan must have felt a tang of disappointment when he began last Wednesdays West End Cup semi-final on the bench.

His frustration eased when with 11 minutes of normal time left, Donovan was called into action by coach Ernie Luongo.

But, the extra-time drama reached ridiculous proportions when Donovan was forced off the field by the blood rule.

After trying on a succession of different shirts, Donovan attempted to get back into the hectic action, but each time he was rejected by referee Craig Zetter.

Topless Donovan stood shivering on the frigid touchline, while the offending spot of blood was washed off his original garment by a Croydon official.

Eventually, Donovan was allowed back onto the field and was able to produce the telling pass that brought the winning goal.

POSTECOGLOU POSTED

National Youth coach Angie Postecoglou has been appointed to coach the "Australs" the Australian youth team to contest the Festival Cup 2002 at Adelaide's Hindmarsh Stadium from August 3-11.

Juventus (Italy), Vasco da Gama (Brazil), Glasgow Rangers (Scotland), Ajax (Holland), Bayern Munich (Germany), Newcastle United (England) and Shandong Luneng Taishan (China) will provide the opposition for the hosts.

The tournament will be played over

eight days (including two weekends) at Hindmarsh, the purpose built soccer facility where one of the Sydney Olympic football tournament groups was successfully staged.

The series will feature the largest assemblage of international club teams ever to visit Australia.

SAD LOSS

ASA coach Mike Barnett and his family on the death of his mother and their grandmother Barbara last week.

Barbara Barnett was the first woman to hold the position of chairman at the West Torrens Birkalla Soccer Club.

Birkalla president Jack Smith said Barbara Barnett had been a respected and valued club official who had contributed greatly to the success of the club.

PREMIER LEAGUE

Galaxy 2 (Coutirollis, Dawes) Modbury Jets 1 (Marie). Best Galaxy: Dawes, Graham, Yates; Modbury: Matosevic, Dorian, Marie.

Adelaide City 0 Olympic FC 1 (Apostolopoulos). Best Adelaide City: D. Scarsella, P. Scarsella, Carter; Olympic: Saipasidis, Stavros, Parissos, Tsakalas.

Blue Eagles 8 (Sergi 4, Brooks 2, Arnone, Pirone) Pirates 0. Best Blue Eagle: Arnone, Sergi, Penn, Pirone, Fletcher, Martin, Kounas.

Playford Patriots 3 (Monis, DaRocha, Pearce) White City 2 (Bugeja, Armour, pen.). Best Playford: Monis, Kidd, Thomson, White City: Armour, Bernardino, Jean.

Campbelltown City 2 (Monterosso, Senesi) Raiders 3 (Widera 2, J. Barro). Best Campbelltown: Signorello, Campbell, Panagopoulos, Raiders: Widera, Campbell, Panagopoulos.

Para Hills Knights 0 MetroStars 4 (Daf, Schenizzi, Sordillo, tog). Best Para Hills: Wilkinson, Kelly, Burton; MetroStars: R. Moore, Smith, Day.

STATE LEAGUE

Hills Hawks 4 (Harvey 2, Huff, Cooke) Seaford Surfers 0. Best Hills Hawks: Huff, Bowden, Ironside, Seaford Surfers: Vatsilas, Kerr, Lwandoowski.

Port Pirie City 1 (Molley) Enfield Falcons 5 (Malady 3, Ross, Lee). Best Port Pirie City: Gillett, Dawson, Patzaf, Enfield Falcons: Lee, Rechich, Hinch.

Salisbury Berries 0 Cumberland Foxes 3 (Fowler, Margaritis, Mitchell). Best Salisbury: Powell, Groth, Deesley, Cumberland: Harkness, Dunk, Blythe.

Panthers 0 Cobras 4 (Anastasiou 2, Skourious 2). Best Panthers: Konje, J. Thomas, N. Thomas, Cobras: Kar, tevila, Anastasiou.

Western Strikers 1 (D. Paris) Croydon Kings 1 (S. Pirone). Best Western Strikers: Grossi, Barasic, Agalidis, Croydon Kings: Charnstrom, M. Woods, C. Woods

Noarlunga Bulldogs v Northern Demons (Postponed, unplayable pitch).

PREMIER DIVISION

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Adelaide Galaxy	7	14	1	42	10	43
Adelaide Blueeagles	7	12	3	61	3	39
Raiders	7	8	4	45	2	28
Playford Patriots	7	7	6	40	9	27
Metres Stars	16	7	6	31	5	27
Olympic FC	7	6	4	26	26	25
White City Warriors	7	6	4	27	7	22
Para Hills Knights	5	5	4	21	21	19
Modbury	17	4	7	21	10	18
Adelaide City	7	3	4	11	10	14
Campbelltown City	7	2	5	9	10	12
Pirates	7	1	6	4	7	5

WOLLONGONG NEWS

ICU PREMIER LEAGUE ROUND 12

ICU Conference League Round 13

Pictor Rangers 2 Kiama 1 – close game for the host now moving into 3rd position, the visitors unlucky once more, deserved one point. Reserves 3-0, Youth 1-0.

Port Kembla 1 West Illawarra 0 – important points for last year's champion, moving one spot up, West drops down two. Reserves 3-2, Youth 1-2.

Coniston Lions 3 Tarrawanna 1 – convincing win for the competition leaders maintaining a narrow lead, while the visitors are still 9th on the table. Reserves 2-0, Youth 1-0.

Lysaght 1 Cringila 2 – not a positive outcome for the previous leaders, now dropping to 4th spot, a terrific win for the visitors now in 7th position. Reserves 2-1, Youth 3-1.

Balgownie Rangers 1 Olympic 2 – securing 5th place for the visitors with the home side struggling at the lower end of the table. Reserves 5-1, Youth 1-0.

Sunday Match of the Day, Bulli 0 Kemblaillarra 2 – the visitors far too good, Bulli unable to match their speed. Reserves 1-1, Youth 0-2.

Warrilla Wanderers 3 Helensburgh 1 – good effort by the host moving up into 8th

place, the visitors not having much success this year. Reserves 2-1, Youth 1-0.

Woonona 2 Highlands 4 – the highlanders too strong staying 6th, the host not succeeding above 12th spot. Reserves 1-3, Youth 1-0.

Northern United 1 Ruse 4 – an upset and only second win this year for the visitors, no moving up to 14th, a let down for the home side. Reserves 2-0, Youth 1-0.

WEEKEND SOCCER RESULTS

ICU Premier League Round 13

Kiama 4 Port Kembla 3 – twice now that Kiama won against Port causing an upset and possible improvement on the table, the visitors losing touch with the top teams. Reserve Grade 0-2, Youth 2-2.

Pictor Rangers 2 Wollongong Olympic 2 – very valuable point won by the visitors, nothing lost by the host staying in 3rd spot. Reserves 3-1, Youth 1-2.

West Illawarra 2 Coniston Lions 1 – the host topples the front runners quite surprisingly thus moving up the table. Reserves 3-3, Youth 3-1.

Bellambi 0 Shoalhaven City 0 – a surprise draw considering the host is 3rd and the visitors in 11th spot. Reserves 0-1, Youth 3-1.

South Coast United 4 Dapto 4 – a record eight goals, a good performance by the host with new coach David Skeen, now in 7th place playing against 2nd placed Reserves 1-2, Youth 0-2.

Balgownie 0 Shoalhaven City 0 – disappointing result for the home team sliding down one spot, the students staying 4th. Reserves 1-1, Youth 0-3.

Warrilla Wanderers 3 Helensburgh 1 – good effort by the host moving up into 8th

Cringila Lions 2 Bulli 1 – great result for the host moving up one spot into top six, the visitors still at tail end, not travelling well. Reserves 3-0, Youth 1-0.

Kemblaillarra 5 Balgownie Rangers 0 – the host too strong, now taking over again as competition leaders, the visitors close to bottom end of the table. Reserves 1-1, Youth 1-1.

Sunday Match: Tarrawanna 2 Lysaght 1 – moral booster to consolidate 9th place for Tarrawanna, setback for the visitors. Reserves 4-0, Youth 0-0.

Some real surprise results with bottom Kuama defeating former champion Port, West bring down leaders Coniston, Bulli, now in real danger of relegation, Kemblaillarra scoring five goals to take top spot.

ICU Conference League

Round 14

Albion Park WE 7 Shoalhaven City 1 relentless drive by the leaders toward eventual championship, far too strong for the rest of the pack. Reserves 3-1, Youth 0-2.

West Illawarra 2 Coniston Lions 1 – the host topples the



Readers Digest on the World Cup



Alas the 2002 World Cup has come and gone and the big question on everybody's lips is where did all that time go? Well as the old saying goes, time flies when you're having fun and that was surely the case in the 2002 World Cup. So much drama, action and controversy this tournament, football was the talk of the country. Now that it's all over, many people have returned to their normal lives, no more afternoon or night sessions of watching a live match, no more SBS soccer shows, no more coverage in leading newspapers and television stations, it's become a recession for all soccer followers.

Many fans are gearing up for the start of their respective leagues across the globe. Australian, Italian, Spanish, Greek and English leagues will all start in October-November. Below are four articles written by free-lance journalists which discuss their views on the 2002 World Cup.

Referees at World Cup: Blameless or conspiracy?

By Roy Hay

The referees at the World Cup have come in for even more criticism than usual in 2002. Among the complaints are incorrect offside decisions, inappropriate yellow and red cards for simulation, that is cheating by attackers who feign being knocked over in the penalty box, inadequate policing of shirt-pulling, failure to award penalty kicks for handball and one case of adjudging the ball to be out of play when the whole of the ball had not crossed the line.

It is a superficially powerful case for the prosecution and has led to accusations of conspiracy against them by teams which have been on the wrong end of the decisions, including the Cubans, the Spaniards and the Portuguese. In response the referees have hit back by pointing out egregious errors by players as the main cause of the defeats suffered by the fancied teams, while the FIFA authorities have been very ambivalent about the referees and their assistant referees. The president of FIFA, Joseph Blatter described some of the offside decisions as a 'disaster' while the Chair of the Referees Committee has defended his officials saying the standard has been generally high. Three questions arise. Have the decisions been poor? If so, why? How can they be improved?

The only fair test of the first question would be to re-run all the decisions of a particular official, not just the ones that causes the controversy. If this were done then I suspect you would find that the 'worst' official at the World Cup got about 98 per cent of decisions right. How many players would go through a match with such a record?

Each referee and assistant is subject to scrutiny and inspection and after each match the decisions are gone through time and again by inspectors with a view to pointing out errors and showing referees how to avoid them in future. What has happened as technology has improved is that the viewer at home or the coach or official watching the video replay at the game itself is being presented with several, more versions of the incident as speeds significantly lower than that at which they take place on the field. So more 'errors' appear even though refereeing standards are generally improving.

But this is the World Cup you reply and these officials are there because they are expected to get every decision right. In that case, please take up computer games because no human being can be right every time in every game of soccer. Now let's look at some of the decisions to see if we can find any reasons why errors occur.

To tackle the content of our offside decisions first. The rule is that the player must be in line with the last outfield defender at the moment the ball is played to him by one of his teammates. The assistant referee is the judge and he should be positioned in line with the last defender. Even with excellent peripheral vision it is physically impossible for the assistant to see the passer and the receiver simultaneously outside an arc of about forty-five degrees. This limits very significantly the area on the pitch in which the assistant can give an accurate decision. If the ball comes from outside that arc, the assistant referee must turn his head from the attacker to the passer and back again and that takes time. Even if that time is little as one tenth of a second the attacker can have moved nearly a metre which makes him appear clearly offside and cause the official to raise his flag. So it needs no conspiracy theory to explain why apparent mistakes occur in this instance.

Next let's look at shirt pulling and diving. The former always went on

and has become much more common as referees have cracked down on other more violent offences such as tripping, elbowing or block tackling. Referees are being called upon to crack down on shirt pulling. But since at any corner kick for example, there may be five defenders and five attackers jostling for position then at least half of them may be pulling or being pulled at the same time. Singling one out for exemplary punishment is likely to bring the charge of partiality down on the referee's head, while booking five at once would be seen as overkill.

Simulation or diving is easier to police since it only involves two players at most, the defender and the attacker seeking to gain advantage. Getting the angles right and the sequence is critical here. In the case of the Italian Francesco Totti, while he was touched by the Korean defender, if you look at the replay closely you will see that he was going down before contact was made. Two top grade referees to whom I spoke about this agreed. Incidentally the defender also played the ball first. The referee got that one exactly right. Totti was only sent off because he had already received a yellow card. He has no one to blame but himself.

So how can we improve decision-making? Is the use of technology particularly video replays the answer? I suspect not. Using video evidence only shifts the locus of decision-making? But you may say soccer is a low scoring game so we must ensure that the key decisions are correct. Even with video, marginal cases would still arise and if we had to wait ten minutes while people agonised over whether a ball struck a hand or was struck by a hand, crossed a line or did not cross the line, player A contacted B, or was contacted by B, we would cease to have soccer as we have known it. There have been several revisions of the Geoff Hurst 'goal' in the 1966 World Cup final which have come up with conflicting results and still no definitive judgment. Experience in the United States where all this technology has long been available is instructive. The use of video replays for verifying umpire's decisions was used but has now been abandoned in American football. Baseball, which is another low scoring game, relies of the vision and judgment of humans for all key decisions, but its versus strikes, in or out at bases, fair catches or foul's.

Cricket is experimenting with video replays for run-outs and catches with mixed results and a developing sense that this is undermining the independence and confidence of theumpires on the pitch.

Any in-game break-up the flow of soccer is to be avoided if at all possible. The game has a built-in mechanism to do this. An electronic device which might also be a timer break in the flow would be an official by an audible warning device so that assistants could alert the referee to a foul or an offside. In addition to raising the flag. When one of Australia's top officials Eugene Brazzale ran the line at the World Youth Cup in 1993 his central referee and the inspector commented that they could hear the crack of his flag as it shot up as well as see it, helping reinforce the message, but still leaving the decision in the hands of the referee. You can't hear a flag at a World Cup with 40,000 Koreans in full voice but a deeper or vibrating buzzer could convey the message.

But the best way to ensure good results is to have the best officials in place for the most contentious and important games. Training and experience at the highest level do make a difference. Familiarity with the players and their characteristics also help. So the case for appointing the best referees and assistants to key games is strong and perhaps should take precedence over the desire to raise the standard of officiating generally by exposing less experienced officials to top games.

Commentators of the World Cup

By Joe Russo

Korea/Japan 2002 may be over but the memory of a World Cup in our time zone will linger on. Prior to the commencement of the tournament there were fears that we might not be able to see every game.

Channel 9 had secured coverage to 16 matches but what was going to happen to the other 48? SBS stepped in and covered the breach and, much to everyone's relief, all World Cup matches would be on free-to-air television.

So just how did the dual networks handle the World Cup? The last time a similar arrangement was made was for Mexico 86 when the ABC and SBS split the World Cup. However, this time it was different. In 1986 they were both Government funded channels but now it was the mighty Channel 9, with all its other sporting commitments, sharing with SBS. Channel 9's first real venture into soccer was a juggling act for the network. Aussie Rules, Rugby League and Wimbledon also had to be covered. So where did soccer fit in?

In the end it fitted in very nicely. Soccer seemed very much at home on the commercial television giant. As for SBS, the real soccer network, everyone knew that they would do a superb job.

Channel 9 to their credit didn't use Eddie McGuire or Ken Sutcliffe or another network favourite to handle the World Cup. They rightly opted for soccer people. Andy Harper, who had worked previously on SBS, was the host. Although he got off to a nervous start, he progressed very nicely. Harper in his previous television roles was always the expert rather than the host. Now he was in at the deep end covering the world's biggest event. Harper survived and passed the test.

The experts were Gary Phillips and Graham Arnold. No introductions required for them to the soccer fans but their television experience was certainly

very limited.

In the end both came through and did a satisfactory job considering that they too were thrown in at the deep end. Phillips is a fairly lively character and Arnold will need to become so as well, if he hopes to progress in his media career. The downfall for Channel 9 was the set. For the first few games they sat on comfortable chairs but then they came out with the brown boring set. It looked like it may have arrived here with the First Fleet in 1788. It was terrible.

The Channel 9 commentators for the early games were average. Gary Bloom, John Helm and Steve Bonyard all sound very similar. Tony Gibba thought that Christian Vieri was Viera on several occasions. For the England v Argentina clash they took the call of John Motson and Trevor Brooking from English television. Motson is a great commentator but Brooking is extremely one-eyed in favour of England. They lasted about 80 minutes before Channel 9 lost them and then picked up another commentator for the remaining minutes. In the end Channel 9 borrowed Martin Tyler from SBS and the standard lifted dramatically for the semi-finals and final. Tyler is greatest soccer commentator in the English-speaking world. SBS, who had brought us four previous World Cups, did a great job overall. Not since 1986 did they have to play second fiddle when covering a World Cup.

Having secured the rights only weeks before the start for the remaining 48 games, their effort was mammoth. A brand new, technicoloured set with a glass table was unveiled as the centrepiece of their broadcast. For Italy 90 they had Andy Paschalidis and Charlie Yankos in the studio and Les Murray and Johnny Warren in some beautiful villa in Rome holding up the daily papers from Italy. On the whole it was a job well done. All our worst fears prior to the tournament were put to rest. Channel 9 did come good and no one ever doubted SBS once they too picked up the rights. We must now wait another four years to see what will follow the glass table.

For Korea/Japan 2002 it was the glass table, which will be forever remembered as part of this World Cup. It was a modern and very appealing studio and one that truly reflected SBS's attitude towards soccer. Channel 9's pre-historic set had nothing on this jazzy one.

Even after SBS had shown all their games they continued to run the mighty World Cup Show, glass table and all. Any other network would not cover an event especially if a rival was showing the matches. The SBS commentary team was superb. Tyler and David Smith, the latter not that well known in Australia, were superb. Alan Parry and Paul Dempsey, the other two commentators used by SBS, were just a notch behind Tyler and Smith.

One of the fascinating things about their coverage was the idea of the host standing. Les Murray must well and truly have sore legs by now! Kyle Patterson, who had his turn standing as well when hosting, filled in well when required.

Johnny Warren, the icon of SBS soccer, was as always superb. Even allowing for his Brazilian bias, and the great lengths he went to pointing out how Brazil can defend. Warren's insights into a game are second to none. There is no more knowledgeable soccer expert on Australian television.

Craig Foster the new addition to the team is to be commended as well. Once you got the hang of his fast speaking pace, you realised that he really did know his stuff. Foster's versatility was amazing. In the afternoon he would appear on Channel 7 with Bruce MacAvaney on Sportswatch and then back up for SBS the same evening.

On the whole it was a job well done. All our worst fears prior to the tournament were put to rest. Channel 9 did come good and no one ever doubted SBS once they too picked up the rights. We must now wait another four years to see what will follow the glass table.

Look what we've done to our Race

By Max Morris

Yet another soccer World Cup has drawn to a close. The hangover has all but lifted, the trophy has returned to Rio, and the referees remain adamant that contrary to popular belief, no they do not need reading glasses, and their parents were in fact married when they were born.

It was a truly memorable four weeks, filled with moments of sheer ecstasy for some, agony for others. Who will ever forget Ronaldinho's masterstroke match-winning free kick for Brazil, the ball soaring gracefully above England into the back of the net? And you didn't have to be Uruguayan or Senegalese - or even a soccer fan - to experience the edge-of-your-seat tension as our South American friends came oh, so close to achieving the unachievable of comebacks.

But what I will remember most from this World Cup are the lessons. I am not referring to the acting and diving lessons provided by some of the players - though this did demonstrate that many have strong alternative career prospects after soccer. No, the lessons I am referring to are to be learned from events that took place off the field.

Once again, what was billed as the greatest show on earth was marred with acts of mindless violence. Goals and comebacks aside, etched on my mind are scenes like those from Moscow where angry fans went on the post-match rampage. Shop windows were smashed, and one poor individual's car was pulverised live on international television.

Imagine being the owner of that car, waking up in the morning unaware as to what was going on as you tuned into the morning news. You would be left agast, wondering who you had upset so much to deserve having your car turned into a punchbag by a gang of strangers.

Unbelievable as it may seem, the truth was that he lost his no-claims discount because several thousand kilometres away, eleven Japanese men kicked a ball into a net whereas

eleven Russian men didn't. Or perhaps there was an exclusion clause for that on his insurance policy.

There were similar scenes in several cities around the world after other matches. All because one bunch of people felt that their team deserved to kick the ball in the net more than the other team, and got p***ed off that another bunch of people had a different opinion on the matter.

It sounds like a squabble between two kids in the school playground, taunting one another until one kid runs out of arguments and wallops the other in the nose as a last resort because he simply does not like to lose.

Several tragic and unnecessary conflicts have been started off by this very same basic human flaw. The problem is that when governments and extremists have differences of opinion, punches in the nose tend to get replaced by missiles, bullet bombs. The Gulf War, the recent stand off between India and Pakistan, even the atrocities of and after September 11th - whether we like it or not, a difference of opinion is all that it took to trigger these events. "That's my offside"; "no it's not, it's mine." Or "get off my land"; "hey, we were invited!" Wallop, crash, bang. Ouch.

If we were a truly intelligent species, we would be able to overcome this basic quasi-animal instinct. We would resolve our differences with our mouths and our ears rather than lashing out with our fists. What does violence prove anyway? I don't know what your school playground was like, but I never once saw a kid getting punched in the nose and then turning round and saying "I see what you mean now. Yes, I do have unfriendly large ears." Imagine a playground free of punches and bloody noses.

What would the kids at that school look like? And what would the future hold for them? On the grander scheme of things, that's all the world is, after all. One giant playground full of big kids, who may have grown older, but have not necessarily learned how to grow up.

Why Video Replays Won't Work for Soccer

By Ray Sandell

The 2002 World Cup will be remembered for one word. Conspiracy!

According to all the pundits, including the once every four-year soccer experts, FIFA and the referees, and their assistants, had conspired to arrange for the two host countries to continue in the tournament at the cost of many so-called "high fliers". Every time you opened a newspaper, listened to a radio program or turned on the television, that word was used. Conspiracy! What a load of rot!

If people took time to really think about it, how could it be done? Apart from the allegations that referees were fixed to disallow goals, send players off and give "dodgy" decisions, how could they organise for players to miss open goals and generally "stuff things up"? The thought of some of the best referees in the world arranging these things is absolutely ridiculous. True, we have had some bad decisions by both referees and assistants, but we have also had plenty of horrible mistakes by players and coaches. Now we have all the experts calling for video replays as in cricket and rugby league. This might work in these two sports but it will never work in soccer owing to the fact that soccer is faster and play is more continuous.

Players in soccer act on the referees whistle immediately. During the World Cup there were a number of instances that highlighted the fallacy of video decisions. During the game between Spain and Korea the assistant indicated, that in his opinion, the ball had gone out of play before a Spanish player headed the ball into the net. The "goal" was disallowed. The experts said that if there had been a video replay it could have been seen that the assistant's decision was wrong and the goal could have been allowed. BUT. If you look at the replay closely it is quite obvious that both the Korean goalkeeper and a defender had obviously heard the referee's whistle indicating the ball had gone out of play and had made no effort to stop the Spanish player heading the ball into the net. They had automatically obeyed the referee's signs that play was stopped. If they had continued on it is quite possible that the Spanish player would not have scored.

If people took time to really think about it, how could it be done?

The experts said that if there had been a video replay it could have been seen that the assistant's decision was wrong and the goal could have been allowed. BUT. If you look at the replay closely it is quite obvious that both the Korean goalkeeper and a defender had obviously heard the referee's whistle indicating the ball had gone out of play and had made no effort to stop the Spanish player heading the ball into the net. They had automatically obeyed the referee's signs that play was stopped. If they had continued on it is quite possible that the Spanish player would not have scored.

In a number of "offside" decisions by assistants that shown on replays were wrong, players have "scored" but the "goal" disallowed. The call has again been for video replays so that the goal would have been allowed. Yet again it is quite obvious that some defenders have stopped play on the referee's whistle in response to his assistant's flag. In these instances we would be penalising the defending team and giving the benefit to the attacking

team should videos replays be used and goals awarded.

In summary, any video decision made after a referee blows his whistle is not worth the tape it appears on. Videos would only be effective for after-match decisions on incidents of an illegal nature carried out behind play, that none of the on-field officials saw during the game, and for the identification of players involved in such incidents. If videos were used to adjudicate on incidents during the match, soccer would become a "stop-start" sport. The beauty of our game is the lack of stoppages compared with the two rugby codes.

The first thing soccer players are taught is "to play to the referee's whistle". It is natural for players to stop play on hearing the referee's whistle. In fact players are penalised when they do not obey the whistle, as in when the referee blows for offside, an attacker deliberately carries on and puts the ball into the net. This is a cautionable offence.

I would be the first to agree that teams suffer from poor decisions by both referees and their assistants, but they also suffer from bad decisions and mistakes from their own players, and coaches, but these are quickly forgotten. If a game is lost it is seldom by the players, it is usually because of the referee.

Why not do away with the referees altogether and have all matches decided by video evidence? That would then do away with all the controversy. On second thoughts that wouldn't work either. The players and coaches of the losing team wouldn't have anybody to blame!

Oh! I forgot. There is always the person checking the video! They could blame him!

Blatter confirms Oceania's World Cup entry

By Daniel Kuzlow

After the hugely successful 2002 World Cup, FIFA President Sepp Blatter has once again stated his desire to see Oceania indulge in this tournament by stressing the need for their automatic entry at the 2006 World Cup and beyond.



Sepp Blatter: FIFA President has steered closer in giving Oceania direct qualification towards the next World Cup.

Colo Colo visit to help in funding of Junior clubs

By Daniel Kuzlow

The upcoming visit of Colo Colo to our shores will not only provide viewers the chance to see one of South America's greatest club sides in action, but their visit will correspond with an initiative aimed at building bridges between elite football and the huge grass roots soccer participation that Australia enjoys.

Zenith Football Management has announced that part of proceeds from this month's fixture between Chilean giants Colo Colo, and the Australia U23 team at Canberra Stadium on July 24, will be distributed proportionately toward junior soccer clubs in the Canberra region.

Victor Vives of Visionmax, has instituted this "Local Development Grant" where a percentage of ticket sales, will be handed back to the junior clubs.

Vice President of Soccer Canberra Dean Grandy

spoke to Visionmax representatives some time back about the need for a tangible flow of benefit, being passed down from the top, to the bottom, along the lines of a development fund.



"There has been some animosity toward levies and other soccer fees in recent times" said Grandy.

"It is great to see the top level of soccer putting some funding back in the other direction. We have 19 junior soccer clubs and this year we will see our numbers go over 10,000 registered junior play-

ers. It is great that our developmental effort can now be supported financially from entities above us."

One junior club chairman, David Hough of Weston Creek Royals, stated that his

South Australian squad member Barney Smith just shrugged his shoulders and said: "That's football" when told of the news that new Adelaide City coach Charlie Villani had overlooked him for a position at the club.

After howls of protest from MetroStars officials and quizzical looks from soccer pundits around town, the question is now being asked as to how the former Cosmos keeper could not be considered.

News this week that Villani is signing a keeper from the Western Australian state league has led a number of local officials to believe that City are devaluing the local SA competition.

"I turned my back on a lucrative offer to join Newcastle United to play in Adelaide" said Smith. "Being ignored by Zoran Matic was one thing, but now I am considering leaving Adelaide for good," said the prolific shot-stopper who holds the record for successive penalty saves.

"I'll continue to honour my commitment to Mick Barnett and the boys in the state team. Some of them are also being overlooked for other players from interstate and players who are playing for free. If that's City's go, then good luck to them."

Smith has had an offer to head to the north of England for trials and it seems now that that will be his next option.

Brighton last September

Wadsworth said, "McDonald is a player that I have been looking at for a while. I was working with him over the summer. He's got great pace, he's strong and he's a good finisher."

"His first-team chances were limited at Southampton and this is a very good chance for him. I'm filling gaps at the moment."

"There is a hole up front, with both Delroy Facey and Leon Knight leaving, and I think that he can fill it."

AUSSIE STAR McDONALD LOANED TO HUDDERSFIELD

Mick Wadsworth has signed Southampton striker Scott McDonald - just two days after being appointed Huddersfield manager.

The 19-year-old Australian moves to the McAlpine Stadium on a three-month loan deal, with a view to a permanent switch.

He has made just two substitute appearances for the Saints in the Premiership and his only start came in the Worthington Cup victory over

FORCE OVERLOOK SOUTH AUSTRALIAN CUSTODIAN



Barney Smith: South Australian state star has been overlooked by the Adelaide Force for the up and coming season.

OLYMPIC SHARKS TO SWOOP ON PROMISING YOUNG STAR?

By Mark Stavroulakis

Last year's Grand Final winners the Olympic Sharks are looking towards bolstering their squad with the possible inclusion of QAS graduate and current Joeys star Matthew Hilton.

At the age of 16, Hilton has a keen eye for goal and has shown that in the National Youth League Southern Division by being

amongst the leading scorers of the competition.

The signing of Hilton will be a huge scoop for the Cronulla based side as the youngster promises to be one of the best talents ever to come out from the QAS. Coach Gary Phillips (one time QAS Coach) is a firm believer in promoting youth as was shown in last seasons campaign when a number of young stars were unearthed by the 39-year-old.



Matthew Hilton: QAS star could be a part of the Sharks next season.



WORLD CUP SUMMARY



GROUP E



CAMEROON

- eliminated 1st rd

1st rd: Cameroon 1 Ireland 1; Cameroon 1 Saudi Arabia 0; Cameroon 0 Germany 2

Cameroon come as Olympic and African champions. They left in the shadow of Senegal and having not done themselves justice. Failure to see off Ireland meant that the Germany match became crucial to their hopes of advancing and the Indomitable Lions had a hugely-motivated coach in their own German Winfried Schäfer. But the team were strangely muted that day whereas the Germans, anxious not to have to rely on the Saudis holding Ireland, came up with the goods.

Cameroon beat the Saudis - but by less than their two main rivals with only Samuel Eto'o on the mark. And so began a long journey home - shorter than the circuitous route by which they arrived days late, but far sadder.



GERMANY

- runners-up

1st rd: Germany 8 Saudi Arabia 0; Germany 1 Ireland 1; Germany 2 Cameroon 0

2nd rd: Germany 1 Paraguay 0

Quarter-finals: Germany 1 United States 0

Semi-finals: Germany 1 South Korea 0

Final: Germany 0 Brazil 2

Germany proved that even in the midst of an injury crisis they will always be there or themselves. But Cameroon's Brazil proved a cut above in the final.

The Germans registered the highest win at any finals for 20 years against the outclassed Saudis but then had to beat Cameroon after conceding a late equaliser against the Irish. But in Alfonso's class they had found their most potent weapon since Gerd Müller and his five goals, including a hat-trick against the Saudis, helped them through the opening phase. After that, he failed to add to his tally.

Against Paraguay it was Oliver Neuville who struck at the death after a workman-like performance. Michael Ballack saw off the United States in the quarters - though the US side deserved better, and Ballack struck again to end South Korea's runnings in the semi-final. Ballack's yellow card in that game saw him suspended for the final and he was sadly missed.



IRELAND

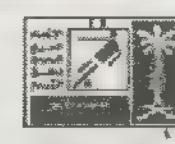
- eliminated 2nd rd

1st rd: Ireland 1 Cameroon 1; Ireland 1 Germany 1; Ireland 3 Saudi Arabia 0

2nd rd: Ireland 1 Spain 1 (o.e.; Spain won 3-2 on penalties)

The Irish arrived in Japan via Spain after being hit by a bombshell - the sending home of skipper Roy Keane, who criticised training facilities and what he saw as a lack of knuckling down to the task ahead. The team proved him wrong as Mick McCarthy's side reached the second phase, holding both Cameroon and Germany, the latter thanks to Robbie Keane's late, late strike.

They then notched more than one goal in a World Cup match for the first time against the Saudis. But having given Spain more than they got in the next round the ensuing penalty shootout brought only heartache and another hard luck story of the kind that the likes of England know only too well.



SAUDI ARABIA

- eliminated 1st rd

1st rd: Saudi Arabia 0 Germany 8

Saudi Arabia 0 Cameroon 1

Saudi Arabia 0 Ireland 3

Outclassed by Germany things just about got better - but only just. The Saudis were out of their depth aside from a number of promising but fruitless attacks against Cameroon. Even traditionally shoddy Ireland put three past them.

Snubbed as they returned home the team can only look to the future. Prince Abdallah ben Abdul Aziz on Sunday has handed the task to Prince Abdel Majid ben Abdul Aziz.

Couch Nasser Al-Johar failed to live up to his name as 'Mr Fair' and the finals will for the Saudis be best rapidly forgotten.

GROUP F



ENGLAND

- eliminated quarterfinals

1st rd: England 1 Sweden 1; England 1 Argentina 0; England 0 Nigeria 0

2nd rd: England 3 Denmark 0

Quarter-final: England 1 Brazil 2

England looked as if they might have blown their chances with two dropped points against the Swedes in the Group of Death. Instead, they saw off Argentina, who eventually crashed out, then took the point they needed from Nigeria. Against the Danes three first-half goals, Michael Owen getting off the mark, made for a steal.

Brazil proved too strong for them in the quarter-final despite Owen's opener. The two former champions had not met since Brazil's famous 1-0 win in the 1970 group phase. Owen took advantage of a goal error to fire England ahead but Ronaldinho's brilliant run set up a fantastic finish from Kaka and Ronaldinho then swept in a mesmerising flickuck over keeper David Seaman to win the match - even if the Brazilian would be sent off six minutes later in the second half one with Ronaldinho having been dismissed England just couldn't find a way through.



ARGENTINA

- eliminated 1st rd

1st rd: Argentina 1 Nigeria 0; Argentina 0 England 1; Argentina 1 Sweden 1

Along with France the Argentines were the real flops of the event. They arrived having raced through the Latin American qualifiers and were seen as joint favourites with the French.

Gabriel Batistuta's header duly beat Nigeria - but David Beckham's penalty gave England a win in the most eagerly-awaited match of the first round. A draw with Sweden was scarcely merited - and by then the Swedes had done enough to join England in the last 16. Batistuta's generation have had their day.

Audifielder Juan Sebastian Veron believed bad luck was to blame as they had worked hard to prepare. But their game lacked fluency and it wasn't 'just like watching Brazil' as the two neighbouring countries swapped roles, compared to what had gone in the qualifiers.



NIGERIA

- eliminated 1st rd

1st rd: Nigeria 0 Argentina 1

Nigeria 1 Sweden 2

Nigeria 0 England 0

Arrived with potential - but didn't fulfil it. The Nigerians could have snatched a point off Argentina but thanks to Batistuta's forehead they didn't quite pull it off.

As morale sagged Sweden tipped the low-flying Super Eagles over the edge. A point against England in the heat did not nothing to lift the gloom.

Julius Aghahowa did get on the scoresheet against the Swedes to go through his back-flip routine. But the football was by no means as spectacular.



SWEDEN

- eliminated 2nd rd

1st rd: Sweden 1 England 1

Sweden 2 Nigeria 1

Sweden 1 Argentina 1

Sweden had England on the ropes in their 'Group of Death' opener and might easily have claimed all three points.

Hennrik Larsson scored a double against Nigeria and although a late Hernan Crespo goal saved Argentine blushes in a 1-1 draw Anders Svensson had scored earlier to get the point that the Scandinavians needed.

When it came to Senegal, however, Larsson - although he scored - and company were less effective as Henrik Larsson's double, the second a golden goal, sent the Swedes out.

GROUP G



CROATIA

- eliminated 1st rd

1st rd: Croatia 0 Mexico 1

Croatia 2 Italy 1

Croatia 0 Ecuador 1

Croatia's amazing win over Italy proved to be a fluke as they stumbled out, beaten by little Ecuador. It was a stark contrast with the Croats' third place in 1998.

The fact the Italians had two goals disallowed helped but Croatia were already dying with death by losing to a Mexican penalty in their opener.

The loss to Ecuador caused the roof to cave in. Coach Mirko Jozic paid the price.

Unsurprisingly, the Croatian Football Federation gave him the boot.



ECUADOR

- eliminated 1st rd

1st rd: Ecuador 0 Italy 2

Ecuador 1 Mexico 2

Ecuador 1 Croatia 0

As World Cup debutants Ecuador had already done well to get to the final in place of the likes of Colombia. They were by no means outclassed by either Italy or Mexico and then came their big moment.

A win over the Croats, who had every reason to want a result.

Edison Mendez scored the goal which will go down in the annals of Ecuadorian football history.



ITALY

- eliminated 2nd rd

1st rd: Italy 2 Ecuador 0; Italy 1 Croatia 2;

Italy 1 Mexico 1

Italy were as cautious as they are on paper talented - nothing new there. But the recipe had proved successful in the past in bringing three titles. First-round survival looked in doubt after the Croatian loss but Ecuador helped to push the Croats through the exit door.

And then came the Koreans and Ahn Jung-Hwan's winning header in extra-time. For Italy it was the referee's fault - the man in the middle Ecuador's Byron Moreno.

Moreno incurred the wrath of the Italians when he sent-off Francesco Totti for diving and disallowed what would have been an extra-time winner by Damiano Tommasi.

As the Spaniards would find out, lightning can strike twice - although maybe not in the same round.



MEXICO

- eliminated 2nd rd

1st rd:

Mexico 1 Croatia 0

Mexico 2 Ecuador 1

Mexico 1 Italy 1

2nd rd:

Mexico 0 United States 2

The Mexicans flattered to deceive as they dominated the opening phase.

They didn't need the win against Italy and the last few minutes neither side made any effort to force the pace.

But after raising expectations those hopes were dashed with a feeble showing against the fired-up Americans.

GROUP H



BELGIUM

1st rd:

Belgium 2 Japan 2

Belgium 1 Tunisia 1

Belgium 3 Russia 2

The Belgians just held on for a draw with Japan and then reserved their best for Russia after another draw with Tunisia. Marc Wilmots scored the winner in an entertaining encounter with the Russians in a must-win match.

But his wrongly disallowed goal against Brazil meant it was journey's end.

At least the Belgians took the fair play award.



JAPAN

- eliminated 2nd rd

1st rd: Japan 2 Belgium 2; Japan 1 Russia 0;

Japan 2 Tunisia 0;

2nd rd: Japan 0 Turkey 1

English-based midfielder Junichi Inamoto gave Japan their first ever World Cup win against Russia and under French coach Philippe Troussier they made big strides, although less so than the South Koreans.

But getting through the group was an achievement in itself and they could have beaten Belgium as well before a second success did arrive against Tunisia.

But Turkey were up for the fight in the second round and by then Japanese self-belief was on the wane.



Russia

- eliminated 1st rd

1st rd: Russia 2 Tunisia 0; Russia 0 Japan 1;

Russia 2 Belgium 3

The Russians failed to get into the event and their first 45 minutes against Tunisia was fairly dire. The second half brought an improvement.

But then two defeats followed and the team were on the way home again after another tournament of underachievement. Two senior Russian oil executives later said they were ready to help the Russian Football Union hire a foreign coach to improve things.

It seems the money can't come quickly enough.



TUNISIA

- eliminated 1st rd

1st rd:

Tunisia 0 Russia 2

Tunisia 1 Belgium 1

Tunisia 0 Japan 0

The Tunisians weren't outclassed - but didn't have any potent weapons in their armoury.

The draw with Belgium was a creditable result - Raouf Bouazizi on target for the North Africans.

But against an ambitious Japan and a fired-up home crowd they slid to the loss which sent them out.



Round	1	w/e 22nd September 2002		Kick Off	Venue
Date	Club	Club			
Fri	20-09-02	Marconi Stallions	Vs	Wollongong Wolves	7:30pm Marconi Stadium
Fri	20-09-02	Newcastle United	Vs	South Melbourne	7:30pm EnergyAustralia Stadium
Sat	21-09-02	Parramatta Power	Vs	Perth Glory	7:30pm Parramatta Stadium
Sun	22-09-02	Football Kingz	Vs	Sydney United	2:30pm TBA
Sun	22-09-02	Brisbane Strikers	Vs	Northern Spirit	3:00pm Ballymore Stadium
Sun	22-09-02	Melbourne Knights	Vs	Olympic Sharks	6:00pm Knights Stadium
BYE		Adeade City Force			

Round	2	w/e 29th September 2002		Kick Off	Venue
Date	Club	Club			
Fri	27-09-02	Northern Spirit	Vs	Football Kingz	7:30pm North Sydney Oval
Fri	27-09-02	Wollongong Wolves	Vs	Parramatta Power	7:30pm WIN Stadium
Sun	29-09-02	Adeade City Force	Vs	Melbourne Knights	3:00pm Hindmarsh Stadium
Sun	29-09-02	Sydney United	Vs	Newcastle United	3:00pm Sydney United Sports Centre
Sun	29-09-02	Perth Glory	Vs	Brisbane Strikers	4:00pm Perth Oval
TBA	TBA	Olympic Sharks	Vs	Marconi Stallions	TBA Toyota Park
BYE		South Melbourne			

Round	3	w/6th October 2002		Kick Off	Venue
Date	Club	Club			
Fri	04-10-02	Marconi Stallions	Vs	Adelaide City Force	7:30pm Marconi Stadium
Fri	04-10-02	Newcastle United	Vs	Northern Spirit	7:30pm EnergyAustralia Stadium
Sat	05-10-02	Parramatta Power	Vs	Olympic Sharks	7:30pm Parramatta Stadium
Sun	06-10-02	Brisbane Strikers	Vs	Wollongong Wolves	3:00pm Ballymore Stadium
Sun	06-10-02	Football Kingz	Vs	Perth Glory	4:30pm TBA
Sun	06-10-02	South Melbourne	Vs	Sydney United	6:00pm Bob Jane Stadium
BYE		Melbourne Knights			

Round	4	w/e 13th October 2002		Kick Off	Venue
Date	Club	Club			
Fri	11-10-02	Wollongong Wolves	Vs	Football Kingz	7:30pm WIN Stadium
Fri	11-10-02	Northern Split	Vs	South Melbourne	7:30pm North Sydney Oval
Sun	13-10-02	Adeade City Force	Vs	Parramatta Power	3:00pm Hindmarsh Stadium
Sun	13-10-02	Perth Glory	Vs	Newcastle United	4:00pm Perth Oval
Sun	13-10-02	Melbourne Knights	Vs	Marconi Stallions	6:00pm Knights Stadium
TBA	TBA	Olympic Sharks	Vs	Brisbane Strikers	TBA Toyota Park
BYE		Sydney united			

Round	5	w/e 20th October 2002		Kick Off	Venue
Date	Club	Club			
Fri	18-10-02	Newcastle United	Vs	Wollongong Wolves	7:30pm EnergyAustralia Stadium
Sat	19-10-02	Parramatta Power	Vs	Melbourne Knights	7:30pm Parramatta Stadium
Sun	20-10-02	Brisbane Strikers	Vs	Adelaide City Force	3:00pm Ballymore Stadium
Sun	20-10-02	Football Kingz	Vs	Olympic Sharks	4:30pm TBA
Sun	20-10-02	South Melbourne	Vs	Perth Glory	6:00pm Bob Jane Stadium
Sun	20-10-02	Sydney United	Vs	Northern Spirit	6:00pm Sydney United Sports Centre
BYE		Marconi Stallions			

Round	6	w/e 27th October 2002		Kick Off	Venue
Date	Club	Club			
Fri	25-10-02	Marconi Stallions	Vs	Parramatta Power	7:30pm Marconi Stadium
Sun	27-10-02	Adeade City Force	Vs	Football Kingz	3:00pm Hindmarsh Stadium
Sun	27-10-02	Perth Glory	Vs	Sydney United	4:00pm Perth Oval
Sun	27-10-02	Melbourne Knights	Vs	Brisbane Strikers	6:00pm Knights Stadium
TBA	TBA	Olympic Sharks	Vs	Newcastle United	TBA Toyota Park
BYE		Wollongong Wolves	Vs	South Melbourne	TBA

Round	7	w/e 3rd November 2002		Kick Off	Venue
Date	Club	Club			
Fri	01-11-02	Football Kingz	Vs	Melbourne Knights	7:30pm TBA
Fri	01-11-02	Newcastle United	Vs	Adelaide City Force	7:30pm EnergyAustralia Stadium
Fri	01-11-02	Northern Spirit	Vs	Perth Glory	7:30pm North Sydney Oval
Sat	02-11-02	Brisbane Strikers	Vs	Marconi Stallions	7:00pm Ballymore Stadium
Sun	03-11-02	South Melbourne	Vs	Olympic Sharks	6:00pm Bob Jane Stadium
Sun	03-11-02	Sydney United	Vs	Wollongong Wolves	6:00pm Sydney United Sports Centre
BYE		Parramatta Power			

Round	8	w/e 10th November 2002		Kick Off	Venue
Date	Club	Club			
Fri	08-11-02	Marconi Stallions	Vs	Football Kingz	7:30pm Marconi Stadium
Sat	09-11-02	Parramatta Power	Vs	Brisbane Strikers	7:30pm Parramatta Stadium
Sun	10-11-02	Adeade City Force	Vs	South Melbourne	4:00pm Hindmarsh Stadium
Sun	10-11-02	Melbourne Knights	Vs	Newcastle United	6:00pm Knights Stadium
Sun	10-11-02	Wollongong Wolves	Vs	Northern Spirit	6:30pm WIN Stadium
TBA	TBA	Olympic Sharks	Vs	Sydney United	TBA Toyota Park
BYE		Perth Glory			

Round	9	w/e 17th November 2002		Kick Off	Venue
Date	Club	Club			
Fri	15-11-02	Football Kingz	Vs	Parramatta Power	7:30pm TBA
Fri	15-11-02	Newcastle United	Vs	Marconi Stallions	7:30pm EnergyAustralia Stadium
Fri	15-11-02	Northern Spirit	Vs	Olympic Sharks	7:30pm North Sydney Oval
Sun	17-11-02	Perth Glory	Vs	Wollongong Wolves	4:00pm Perth Oval
Sun	17-11-02	South Melbourne	Vs	Melbourne Knights	6:00pm Bob Jane Stadium
Sun	17-11-02	Sydney United	Vs	Adelaide City Force	6:00pm Sydney United Sports Centre
BYE		Brisbane Strikers			

Round	15	w/e 29th December 2002		Kick Off	Venue
Date	Club	Club			
Fri	27-12-02	Northern Spirit	Vs	Parramatta Power	7:30pm TBA
Fri	27-12-02	Wollongong Wolves	Vs	Marconi Stallions	7:30pm WIN Stadium
Sun	29-12-02	Perth Glory	Vs	Brisbane Strikers	7:30pm Hindmarsh Stadium
Sun	29-12-02	South Melbourne	Vs	Newcastle United	6:00pm North Sydney Oval

ASL Draw 2002-2003

	Kick Off	Venue
Bourne	7:30pm	Marconi Stadium
ngz	7:00pm	Ballymore Stadium
pirif	4:00pm	Hindmarsh Stadium
United	4:00pm	Parramatta Stadium
ted	6:00pm	Knights Stadium
	TBA	Toyota Park

	Kick Off	Venue
nkers	7:30pm	EnergyAustralia Stadium
Knights	7:30pm	North Sydney Oval
City Force	5:00pm	Perth Oval
o Power	6:00pm	Bob Jane Stadium
llions	6:00pm	Sydney United Sports Centre
g Wolves	TBA	Toyota Park

	Kick Off	Venue
pirit	7:30pm	Marconi Stadium
United	7:30pm	TBA
bourne	7:00pm	Ballymore Stadium
ited	4:00pm	Parramatta Stadium
y	6:00pm	Knights Stadium
City Force	6:30pm	WIN Stadium

	Kick Off	Venue
a Power	7:30pm	North Sydney Oval
arks	4:00pm	Hindmarsh Stadium
lions	5:00pm	Perth Oval
ngz	6:00pm	Bob Jane Stadium
iters	6:00pm	Sydney United Sports Centre
ng Wolves	6:00pm	Knights Stadium

	Kick Off	Venue
Sharks	7:30pm	Marconi Stadium
ited	7:30pm	EnergyAustralia Stadium
ity	7:00pm	Ballymore Stadium
ong Wolves	4:00pm	Parramatta Stadium
City Force	6:00pm	Knights Stadium
Split	TBA	TBA

	Kick Off	Venue
Strikers	7:30pm	North Sydney Oval
Stallions	7:30pm	WIN Stadium
ta Power	5:00pm	Perth Oval
le United	6:00pm	Bob Jane Stadium
Kingz	6:00pm	Sydney United Sports Centre
ne Knights	TBA	Toyota Park

	Kick Off	Venue
Stallions	8:00pm	Hindmarsh Stadium
le United	7:30pm	North Sydney Oval
Strikers	7:30pm	WIN Stadium
Kingz	7:00pm	Perth Oval
ne Bourne	6:00pm	Sydney United Sports Centre
ta Power	TBA	Toyota Park

	Kick Off	Venue
ne Knights	7:30pm	Marconi Stadium
ng Wolves	7:30pm	TBA
ory	7:30pm	EnergyAustralia Stadium
Sharks	7:00pm	Ballymore Stadium
e City Force	7:30pm	Parramatta Stadium
Spirit	7:00pm	Bob Jane Stadium

Round	18	w/e 19th January 2003		Kick Off	Venue
Date	Club	Club			
Fri 17-01-03	Adelaide City Force	Vs	Brisbane Strikers	8:00pm	Hindmarsh Stadium
Fri 17-01-03	Northern Spirit	Vs	Sydney United	7:30pm	North Sydney Oval
Sat 18-01-03	Perth Glory	Vs	South Melbourne	7:00pm	Perth Oval
Sun 19-01-03	Melbourne Knights	Vs	Parramatta Power	6:00pm	Knights Stadium
Sun 19-01-03	Wollongong Wolves	Vs	Newcastle United	6:30pm	WIN Stadium
TBA TBA	Olympic Sharks	Vs	Football Kingz	TBA	Toyota Park
BYE	Marconi Stallions				

Round	19	w/e 26th January 2003		Kick Off	Venue
Date	Club	Club			
Fri 24-01-03	Football Kingz	Vs	Adelaide City Force	7:30pm	TBA
Fri 24-01-03	Newcastle United	Vs	Olympic Sharks	7:30pm	EnergyAustralia Stadium
Sat 25-01-03	Brisbane Strikers	Vs	Melbourne Knights	7:00pm	Ballymore Stadium
Sun 26-01-03	Parramatta Power	Vs	Marconi Stallions	TBA	Parramatta Stadium
Sun 26-01-03	Sydney United	Vs	Perth Glory	6:00pm	Sydney United Sports Centre
Sun 26-01-03	South Melbourne	Vs	Wollongong Wolves	7:00pm	Bob Jane Stadium
BYE	Northern Spirit				

Round	20	w/e 2nd February 2003		Kick Off	Venue
Date	Club	Club			
Fri 31-01-03	Marconi Stallions	Vs	Brisbane Strikers	7:30pm	Marconi Stadium
Fri 31-01-03	Adelaide City Force	Vs	Newcastle United	8:00pm	Hindmarsh Stadium
Fri 31-01-03	Wollongong Wolves	Vs	Sydney United	7:30pm	WIN Stadium
Sat 01-02-03	Perth Glory	Vs	Northern Spirit	7:00pm	Perth Oval
Sun 02-02-03	Melbourne Knights	Vs	Football Kingz	6:00pm	Knights Stadium
TBA TBA	Olympic Sharks	Vs	South Melbourne	TBA	Toyota Park
BYE	Parramatta Power				

Round	21	w/e 9th February 2003		Kick Off	Venue
Date	Club	Club			
Fri 07-02-03	Football Kingz	Vs	Marconi Stallions	7:30pm	TBA
Fri 07-02-03	Newcastle United	Vs	Melbourne Knights	7:30pm	EnergyAustralia Stadium
Fri 07-02-03	Northern Spirit	Vs	Wollongong Wolves	7:30pm	North Sydney Oval
Sat 08-02-03	Brisbane Strikers	Vs	Parramatta Power	7:00pm	Ballymore Stadium
Sun 09-02-03	Sydney United	Vs	Olympic Sharks	6:00pm	Sydney United Sports Centre
Sun 09-02-03	South Melbourne	Vs	Adelaide City Force	7:00pm	Bob Jane Stadium
BYE	Perth Glory				

Round	22	w/e 16th February 2003		Kick Off	Venue
Date	Club	Club			
Fri 14-02-03	Adelaide City Force	Vs	Sydney United	8:00pm	Hindmarsh Stadium
Fri 14-02-03	Marconi Stallions	Vs	Newcastle United	7:30pm	Marconi Stadium
Sat 15-02-03	Parramatta Power	Vs	Football Kingz	7:30pm	Parramatta Stadium
Sun 16-02-03	Melbourne Knights	Vs	South Melbourne	6:00pm	Knights Stadium
Sun 16-02-03	Wollongong Wolves	Vs	Perth Glory	6:30pm	WIN Stadium
TBA TBA	Olympic Sharks	Vs	Northern Spirit	TBA	Toyota Park
BYE	Brisbane Strikers				

Round	23	w/e 23rd February 2003		Kick Off	Venue
Date	Club	Club			

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WORLD

Keane rejects move

Republic of Ireland striker Robbie Keane has rejected a move from Leeds to Premiership rivals Sunderland after the clubs had apparently agreed on a transfer fee.

"I do not want to speak to any other club," Keane said. "I am happy at Leeds and am confident that I can impress any new manager with my ability and commitment."

The 21-year-old striker, who scored three goals at the World Cup finals, cost \$US18 million (\$A32.23 million) when he was signed by Leeds from Inter Milan.

Keane will now stay to fight for his place in the starting eleven at Elland Road alongside last season's recruit Robbie Fowler and Australian star Mark Viduka.

While Keane's stance puts him in a strong bargaining position, Leeds remains desperate to recoup \$T15 million in an attempt to stave off the need to sell England defender Rio Ferdinand, a target for Manchester United.

But Black Cats boss Peter Reid will hope he can talk Keane round as he

attempts to find a long-term replacement for the player's international teammate Niall Quinn.



Robbie Keane: Irish star has rejected a move to Sunderland.

Christianity: the secret to Brazil's World Cup success

Brazil's secret to success has been revealed - divine intervention. Brazil's fifth World Cup triumph in Yokohama on Sunday after their 2-0 final win over Germany was followed by the whole Brazilian delegation saying a collective prayer on the pitch before going on to hoist the trophy.



Amid the joyous scenes several of Brazil's players took off their tops to reveal t-shirts with over and colourful tributes to Christ and Jesus.

In another touching moment, two-time champion Cafu was thrust onto a pillar to raise the World Cup while his teammates scribbled a religious message on the front of his top.

French Football Chief reveals Shock

French football chief reveals shock French Football Federation (FFF) president Claude Simonet put forward Le Havre manager and former European champion Jean-Francois Domergue as his shock favourite to succeed Roger Lemerre as France manager.

Domergue, who won a medal with France when they won the European Championships in 1984, has expressed surprise at the news which Le Havre president Jean-Pierre Louvel says he would, with reservation, give his blessing.

Lemerre, who failed to take France past the first phase of the World Cup, still hasn't left his post

but is widely expected to be edged out of the door by the time the FFF meet in Lyon. That will pave the way for a new man to be in place for France's friendly with Tunisia on August 21.

And while many, including French legend Michel Platini, favour Lyon's Jacques Santini, Simonet said he would like to see Domergue in charge.

"Personally, although he is tied up, I have a fancy for Jean-Francois Domergue, who to me fulfils all the conditions needed for the right man," Simonet revealed.

Domergue guided Le Havre to promotion from the second division last year, albeit with the aide of league reconstruction.



Spanish tax men swoop on Rivaldo

The Spanish tax authorities have handed Brazilian World Cup winner Rivaldo a 1.8-million-euro (1.77-million-dollar) bill for image rights, Spanish newspaper *El País* reported.

The Barcelona midfielder, under investigation since the start of 2001, has been told to handover the hefty sum of money he earned between 1997 and

1999 from Barcelona and Catalan TV.

to *El País* a law was passed in 1997 which states: "A player can deduct a maximum of 15 per cent of his total image rights, the rest is considered like a salary."

Rivaldo, who jetted back to Brazil with the rest of his victorious countrymen, is disputing the tax bill and now has two weeks to present his case to the authorities.



Rivaldo: Brazilian star in trouble with the Spanish Tax Authorities.

SPAIN COACH CAMACHO RESIGNS

Spain coach Camacho resigns Spain coach Jose Antonio Camacho has resigned, the president of the country's football federation Angel Maria Villar said during a press conference.

The contract of former Real Madrid player Camacho, who had been at the helm of Spain for nearly four years, had been due to run till after the 2004 European championship finals in Portugal.

South Korea had knocked out Spain in the quarter-finals of last month's World Cup finals.



Jose Antonio Camacho: Spanish coach has stepped down from being the National Team coach.

Cruyff slams World Cup and accuses Brazil of wrecking Football

Cruyff slams World Cup and accuses Brazil of wrecking football Dutch legend Johan Cruyff has criticised this year's World Cup by branding it as an "unmemorable" tournament and slamming winners Brazil for playing "anti-football."

In a stunning outburst on Dutch TV, Cruyff also insisted Brazil clinched a 2-0 win over Germany in Sunday's final because of a series of mistakes by Rudi Voeller's man.

"The 2002 World Cup is unmemorable, in August no-one will be talking about it. There haven't been any real stars," Cruyff said while working as an expert for Dutch TV during their World Cup final coverage. He said Brazil's style of play that took them to



Johan Cruyff: Dutch legend has stated that Brazil played anti-football during the World Cup.

a record fifth World Cup is destroying the beautiful game.

"Brazil deserved their win but they aren't a team. They play anti-football and only took advantage of the mistakes of their opponents," added Cruyff.

"The first goal wasn't down to the brilliance of Ronaldo but as a consequence of the errors by the German defence and Kahn."

"Despite winning the name of the Brazilian coach won't go down in history because he was scared of the Germans."

Cruyff added: "They (Brazil) have set the standard for the rest of the World with their anti-football. I hope that the Netherlands don't follow this example!"

NEW SOUTH WALES

FOOTBALL

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SUPER LEAGUE FEATURE MATCH

Stanmore Hawks

v

A.C. United

STANMORE HAWKS
A.C. UNITED
at Arlington Oval

By Greg Stock

Make no mistake about it, this game was ugly, and to be fair it wasn't the fault of any of the players, nor the referee Simon Prydzac.

The playing surface at Arlington Oval was terrible and with two sides known for their ball-playing prowess, this game was always going to be an anti-climax.

Fans of the English style 1950s football would have been right at home as both sides adopted the old route one tactic in a bid to eliminate the need for close ball control and make something happen. With the midfield largely irrelevant the game was robbed of much of its appeal with hard tackling and turnovers the key ingredients. While the game remained alive right to the death a result either way would certainly have been an injustice, as the game pace oscillated at little above slow.

For the record, AC United probably did have about seventy percent of the action but some strong-arm Stanmore defending nullified any threat with most of the opportunities being distance efforts. Agi Agyei almost gave his side a dream start in the 3rd minute when he chested a ball down in the penalty box and threw his right foot at the ball, only to see it trail away over the bar. Paul White had another good chance in the 30th minute as he slid in behind the Stanmore defence and created some space, his shot never even looked likely with goalkeeper Liam Curran surviving unscathed.

The only time that either goalkeeper was really tested was when Robert Todorovski was released by a Maurice Soler through-ball wide on the left in the 62nd minute. Todorovski was able to turn his marker but his shot sailed meekly over the head of goalkeeper Peter Akers and hit the crossbar before being cleaned up by Mark D'Alessandro.

But with Peter Papoythis rallying his players, Stanmore's defence looked unshakable. The veteran defender was close to best on-ground as he lifted his younger teammates to better efforts with a commanding performance in defence. Without Eric Hristodoulou and Tommy Pontidas in the lineup he played a fine line between pushing forward to attack and staying home to cover in defence. While some of his ballwork wasn't flash under the conditions, his physical presence rattled the AC forward line and he'll no doubt form the basis for new coach George Lazarou's push for the semi-finals.



Ben Price on the ball in Sunday's game.

With Stanmore embroiled in one of the most torrid weeks in their club's history, their collective performance deserves special mention. Ripped apart by politics in recent weeks with the departure of coach Chris Karassis and the appointment of George Lazarou, a number of their younger brigade stood up to be counted alongside captain Papoythis. Maurice Soler was lively while Neil Phillipou and the experienced Robert Todorovski worked hard without reward. George Skoulos did some good things while substitute John Theo looks to have shaken off the effects of a virus which had him in hospital last weekend.

For the visitors it was a fairly apt result and, given the nature of their position, coach Paul Carter was happy to take the point. Allan Picken deserves mention for his efforts as does Luke Vincent. And while they didn't get the win they were looking for, they have bigger fish to fry next week with the tempting visit of the high-flying Fraser Park back on their home patch at Abruzzi Field.

STANMORE HAWKS: Liam Curran, Peter Papoythis, George Skoulos, Steve Kalamvokis, Navid Varess (Peter Peralta 56'), Jim Melissourgos, Robert Todorovski, Neil Phillipou, Steve Liavas (Anthony Skoulos 68'), John Pieris (John Theodoropoulos 72'), Maurice Soler.

Coach: George Lazarou.

AC UNITED: Peter Akers, A.Oygur, Allan Picken, Kevin Elvin (Alex Araujo 70'), Robert Sacco (Dominic Oliverio 63'), Mark D'Alessandro, Agi Agyei, Vincenzo Sansone, Ben Price, Luke Vincent, Paul White (Zia Younan 46').

Coach: Paul Carter

Referee: Simon Prydzac

Assistant Referees: Terry Goodhew, H.S.Afshar

SUPER LEAGUE



SUPER LEAGUE



ROUND 18

Sunday 14 July

			First Grade	Grade 21	Grade 19
Rockdale City	v	Macarthur Rams	Rockdale Linden Field	3:00PM	1:00PM
Hurstville City CS	v	Ryde City	St George Stadium	3:00PM	1:00PM
Sydney University	v	Hajduk Wanderers	Sydney Uni Oval No 1	3:00PM	1:00PM
Dulwich Hill	v	Manly Warringah	Arlington Oval	3:00PM	1:00PM
AC United	v	Fraser Park	Abruzzi Oval	3:00PM	1:00PM
MSC Liverpool	v	Stanmore Hawks	Hammondville Park	3:00PM	1:00PM

ROUND 19

Saturday 20 July

			First Grade	Grade 21	Grade 19
Macarthur Rams	v	AC United	Lynwood Park	7:00PM	5:00PM
Sunday 21 July					
Hajduk Wanderers	v	Rockdale City Suns	Hajduk Stadium	3:00PM	1:00PM
Stanmore Hawks	v	Hurstville City CS	Arlington Oval	3:00PM	1:00PM
Ryde City	v	Dulwich Hill	Magdalene Road	3:00PM	1:00PM
Manly Warringah	v	Sydney University	Cromer Park	3:00PM	1:00PM
Fraser Park Jets	v	MSC Liverpool	Fraser Park	3:00PM	1:00PM



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NSW Super League



ROUND SEVENTEEN WRAP-UP

By Greg Stock

MACARTHUR RAMS 6

(Eric Williams 2', 24', 75', Leigh Gunn 61', Kory Babington 78', Anthony Borg 87')

SYDNEY UNIVERSITY 1

(Rob Smithies 69')
at Lynwood Park

Macarthur kept their slim chances for the post season alive with a comprehensive rout of the out of form Sydney University side on Saturday night.

With temperatures close to freezing point at kick-off it was the home side who started in red hot fashion racing to a 2-0 half time lead. But after the break, the visitors resolve was broken with Williams snaring another, Leigh Gunn, Kory Babington and Anthony Borg all getting on the scoresheet



Bill Petrovski of Dulwich Hill in action recently against Fraser Park.

The league's leading scorer Rob Smithies did reply in the 69th minute but it was a case of failing to take their chances that cost the 'Students' dearly.

Paul Croci could have levelled the scores in the 24th minute, with the score at 1-0 to the Rams, when he found some space in the penalty box but he could not direct his shot anywhere but at the goalkeeper.

But from the very next play the Rams moved forward with Eric Williams netting a fine strike, such was the visitors evening. David Reid and Robert Angievski also starred for the winners.

MANLY WARRINGAH 1

(Damien Rosenthal 60')

RYDE CITY 1

(Andy Stratford 63')

at Cromer Park

A gutsy effort from Ryde City was enough to give them an even share of the points in their meeting with Manly at Cromer Park.

With Damien Brown, Andrew Nicol and Ben Burrows all on the injured list, and the coaching duties in the hands of Chris Cowley, the Gunners

were down to their bare bones but they did more than enough throughout the ninety minutes to contain the hard running Dolphins.

Goalkeeper Peter Sestak saved a Hamilton Thorpe penalty in the 15th minute after defender Robbie Grubba had bought down the former Portsmouth striker in no uncertain terms. But Sestak dived to his right and at full stretch was able to do enough to deny the shot.

Damien Rosenthal did give Manly the lead in the 60th minute when he got in behind the Ryde defence to hit a right foot shot before Ryde City replied three minutes later with a trademark Andy Stratford header.

Manly were best served by their midfielders Tim Wilson, Alex Wilkinson and Roland Webber while Andy Stratford, Robbie Grubba and Eddie Giraldo were amongst Ryde's best.

HAJDUK WANDERERS 1

(Tim Gledhill 38')

DULWICH HILL 1

(Ali Salim 44')
at Hajduk Stadium

Another indifferent performance from Hajduk robbed them of a golden chance for three points when they were held to a 1-1 draw by Dulwich Hill at Hajduk Stadium.

With Tim Gledhill back in the run-on side the Wanderers looked dangerous and it was the former Ryde City striker that got himself on the end of a cross with a diving header to give his side the lead in the 38th minute.



Hajduk's towering central defender Mark Reveley.

But disaster struck when goalkeeper Daniel Schwarzer fumbled a relatively routine take a minute short of the break and gifted Ali Salim an open goal. But just as it seemed the game would open up in the second stanza it went the other way and tightened right up with neither side able to gain a distinct advantage.

Con Paradis tried hard for Dulwich Hill but even his midfield heroics weren't enough as Hajduk blew some late chances for the three points with some poor finishing.



Ex-NSL player Adam Snyder now in the Fraser Park colours.

FRASER PARK 1

(Jack Sobczyk 8')

ROCKDALE CITY SUNS 1

(Spase Najdoski 44')
at Fraser Park

Jets coach John Sentas walked from the ground with a smile on his face for the first time in about six weeks as his side recorded an unlucky 1-1 draw with the league leaders Rockdale City.

With debutant Ante Moric in the starting eleven Fraser Park looked the better of the two sides right through the game, but again the old adage of 'poor finishing' cost them at least another two competition points.

The opening goal arrived in the 8th minute when defender Jack Sobczyk took full advantage of some pressure on Suns defender Malcolm Bideau from a corner and put away a loose ball, but the visitors replied one minute short of the break via Spase Najdoski.

Najdoski stepped up to a free kick on the edge of the penalty box and was able to thread the ball through a maze of bodies to find the empty net.

There was one scary moment for Fraser in the second half with Max Sevares clearing a shot off the line in the 64th minute but that aside, the home side remained well in control but unable to translate that onto the scoreboard.

Coach John Sentas was happy in the knowledge his team had 'no bad players' but again rueed some missed opportunities.

MSC LIVERPOOL 2

(Scott Watkins 53', 78')

HURSTVILLE CITY CS 0

at Hammondville Oval

MSC Liverpool picked up just their second win of the Super League season with an indifferent 2-0 win over Hurstville City in Saturday's other game.

Scott Watkins was the hero for the home side with two well taken goals and if he had maintained his composure he probably could have had another two as well.

Some internal problems at Hurstville City have obviously taken their toll as the side looked lethargic and disinterested throughout the ninety minutes, with some players looking like they were just going through the motions. But full credit to Liverpool. They took their chances and thoroughly deserved their win.



One of Ryde's solid back three Cormack Begley.

LEADING SCORERS

11 - Robert Smithies (Sydney University),

10 - Hamilton Thorpe (Manly-Warringah),
9 - Eric Williams (Macarthur Rams), Spase Najdoski (Rockdale City Suns)

8 - Tim Gledhill (Hajduk Wanderers), Ryan Griffiths (Manly-Warringah),

7 - Steve Berry (Manly-Warringah), Jean-Loup Rousseau (Dulwich Hill)

6 - Denis Alilovic (Rockdale City Suns), Nick Bolevski (Rockdale City Suns), Antonio Faria (Fraser Park)

5 - Peter Apolevski (Rockdale City Suns), Huseyin Bayhan (Hurstville City), Ben Burrows (Ryde City), Damien Rosenthal (Manly-Warringah), Andy Stratford (Ryde City), Navid Varess (Stanmore Hawks), Trent Worrall (Hajduk Wanderers)

4 - Zoki Adioski (Rockdale City Suns), Tanju Balabanel (Hurstville City), Neno Bobos (AC United), Ben Deighan (Rockdale City Suns), Orhan Dincer (Dulwich Hill), Tom Pontadas (Stanmore Hawks), Robbie Portelli (Ryde City), Hans Sevgin (Hurstville City Crescent Star), Luke Vincent (AC United), Scott Watkins (MSC Liverpool)



Leader, Robbie Smithies.



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NSW Super League



ROUND 18 PREVIEW

BY PRESS PICTURES



Rockdale City Suns v Macarthur Rams

KICK-OFF: 3pm, 1pm & 11am, Sunday 14th July 2002
VENUE: Rockdale Linden SC, 210 West Botany St, Arncliffe.

The moment of truth arrives this week for Macarthur in the form of league leaders Rockdale City.

This game is the season deciding match for the Rams after a four game unbeaten run has bought them back into top five calculations.

The battle between both sets of forwards will definitely decide the outcome.

Goce Trposki, Nick Bovenski

and Spase Najdoski were a little off their game against Fraser Park last week and in front of their home crowd they'll certainly have a point to prove.

Eric Williams, a former Suns striker, would like nothing better than to put one over his old team and with state representatives David Reid and Robert Angievski just chomping at the bit, it is sure to be a lively encounter.



Macarthur midfielder Ben Green.



Hurstville City CS v Ryde City Gunners

KICK-OFF: 3pm, 1pm & 11am, Sunday 14th July 2002
VENUE: George Stadium, Beecroft Road, Rockdale.

Some recent internal problems have all but scuttled the Crescent Star push for the top five, and with Ryde City in the midst of a purple patch they won't find this game easy.

Ryde City have three first choice players on the injured list and it will be interesting to see if the Gunners' coaching staff rushes any of them back into the starting eleven.

Andrew Nicol, Ben Burrows and Damien Brown might well

find themselves on the bench after the team put in a handy performance last weekend to draw with second placed Manly-Warringah.

Captain Andy Stratford and state representative Greg Collins again hold the key to the Gunners' chances. Coach Tony Dunn does tell us he WILL be back at the helm after handing over the reins to assistant Chris Cowley for last week's game at Cromer Park.



Andrew Nolan of Ryde City.



Sydney University v Hajduk Wanderers

KICK-OFF: 3pm, 1pm & 11am, Sunday 14th July 2002
VENUE: Sydney University No.1 Main Campus, Sydney University Camperdown.

University coach Stewart Porter is no navel gazer and after watching the Hajduk Dulwich Hill game last Sunday, he is predicting his side will turn around their recent poor form and post a long overdue win.

"Hajduk's game against Dulwich Hill wasn't too flash, and I believe we can knock them off this weekend" said Porter.

"With Rob Smithies in tremendous form we have a lethal striker and if we can take our chances I believe we have the personnel to

win." Porter will shuffle his defence to cope with the loss of key defender Adam 'Sticks' Daley with a shoulder injury and has Luke McDougal slotted into the back four as his replacement.

Paul Croci will continue to partner Smithies up front and with Matt Crawford making a successful return from long term injury against Macarthur, and expecting to be fit to start against the Wanderers, Uni will be hoping to nail the points.



Hajduk's custodian Daniel Schwarzer.



Dulwich Hill v Manly Warringah

KICK-OFF: 3pm, 1pm & 11am, Sunday 14th July 2002
VENUE: Arlington Oval, William Parade, Dulwich Hill.

Dulwich Hill will welcome back skipper Dejan Ristovski from a week's suspension, but will it be enough against the high flying Dolphins.

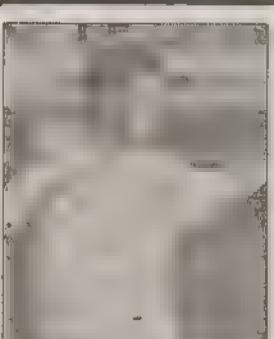
Manly haven't been at the top of their game in recent weeks but their efforts have been promising and coach Robbie Slater predicts his side will improve in the run home to the semi-finals.

"Our problem of late has been finishing" said Slater. "We seem to get the ball into the penalty box

without problems but our forwards are wasting a lot and we'll need to improve that area of our game to win matches."

Slater will also be without key striker Ryan Griffiths for the remainder of the season after he elected to go overseas for a holiday ahead of signing for the Newcastle United side in the NSL.

Influential striker Hamilton Thorpe has been in good form of late.



Dulwich Hill's Xavier Schnyder.



MSC Liverpool v Stanmore Hawks

KICK-OFF: 3pm, 1pm & 11am, Sunday 14th July 2002
VENUE: Hammonds Park, Hammonds Road, Hammonds.

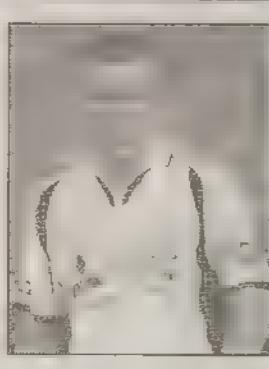
MSC Liverpool will have their work cut out again this week as they host the sixth placed Hawks, a club racked by internal problems until recently.

The departure of former coach Chris Karassis has sent shockwaves through the club with Greg Baldock departing Arlington Oval in support of Karassis and a number of senior players rumoured to be in dispute.

Coach George Lazarou was

able to put a strong side on the park against AC United last weekend and he will again look to 'Captain Courageous' Peter Papoythis to galvanise a young side around him.

Robert Todorovski had a strong game last week and he will be one to keep an eye on while defender John Theo looks set to be rushed into the starting eleven after coming off the bench last weekend.



MSC Liverpool defender Peter Moon.



AC United v Fraser Park Jets

KICK-OFF: 3pm, 1pm & 11am, Sunday 14th July 2002
VENUE: North Bondi Oval, North Bondi.

First versus fifth bills this game as "Match of the Round" Jets coach John Sentas is eagerly awaiting his trip to Abruzzi Field, promising his side's loyal fans his side has turned the corner and is poised to make a move on the top sides.

"Our performance last week against Rockdale was the best we have played all season, and as a team we did not have a bad player" said Sentas.

"I took the risk with a couple of underdone players and they

really excelled, so with a weeks extra work under their belt there is no reason why we can't put on a big game against AC."

The combination of Ante Moric, Glenn Sprod and Fabio Macelino looms as the major stumbling block for the home side this week.

Add to the mix Mirko Juric and Nigerian born Kindess Agwu and all of a sudden Fraser Park have a side capable to winning this week.



Fabio Macelino of Fraser Park.



NSW Super League



Scoreboard

SUPER LEAGUE RD 17

First Grade

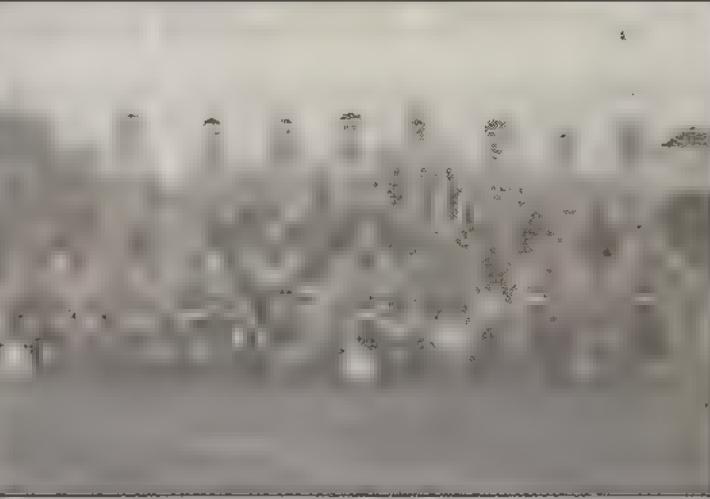
MACARTHUR RAMS	6	SYDNEY UNIVERSITY	1
(E Williams 2/24'75', L Gunn 61', K Babington 78' A Borg 87')		(R Smithies 69')	
MANLY WARRINGAH	1	RYDE CITY	1
(D Rosenthal 60')		(A Stratford 63')	
HAJDUK WANDERERS	1	DULWICH HILL	1
(T Gledhill 38')		(A Salim 44')	
STANMORE HAWKS	0	AC UNITED	0
FRASER PARK	1	ROCKDALE CITY SUNS	1
(J Sobczyk 8')		(S Najdoski 44')	
MSC LIVERPOOL	2	HURSTVILLE CITY CS	0
(S Watkins 53'78')			

UNDER 21

MACARTHUR RAMS	3	SYDNEY UNIVERSITY	0
MANLY WARRINGAH	0	RYDE CITY	1
HAJDUK WANDERERS	1	DULWICH HILL	0
STANMORE HAWKS	0	AC UNITED	2
FRASER PARK JETS	1	ROCKDALE CITY SUNS	0
MSC LIVERPOOL	0	HURSTVILLE CITY CS	0

UNDER 19

MACARTHUR RAMS	1	SYDNEY UNIVERSITY	1
MANLY WARRINGAH	3	RYDE CITY	2
HAJDUK WANDERERS	1	DULWICH HILL	1
STANMORE HAWKS	2	AC UNITED	1
FRASER PARK JETS	0	ROCKDALE CITY SUNS	0
MSC LIVERPOOL	1	HURSTVILLE CITY CS	1



Stanmore Hawk

SUPER LEAGUE TABLE RD 17

FIRST GRADE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Rockdale City Suns	17	12	4	1	42	16	26	40
Manly Warringah Dolphins	17	10	4	3	39	23	16	34
AC United	17	8	5	4	28	24	4	29
Hajduk Wanderers	17	8	4	5	31	23	8	28
Fraser Park Jets	17	6	7	4	21	19	2	25
Stanmore Hawks	17	5	6	6	27	28	-1	21
Hurstville City Crescent Star	17	5	4	8	28	31	-3	19
Dulwich Hill	17	5	4	8	22	27	-5	19
Macarthur Rams	17	5	3	9	23	31	-8	18
Ryde City	17	3	7	7	21	27	-6	16
Sydney University	17	3	6	8	29	40	-11	15
MSC Liverpool	17	2	6	9	11	33	-22	12

UNDER 21

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
AC United	17	11	2	4	36	19	17	35
Ryde City	17	10	4	3	37	24	13	34
Macarthur Rams	17	9	4	4	37	27	10	31
Hajduk Wanderers	17	9	4	4	29	21	8	31
Fraser Park Jets	17	9	2	6	35	25	10	29
Manly Warringah Dolphins	16	6	5	5	27	20	7	23
Rockdale City Suns	16	6	3	7	28	24	4	21
Hurstville City Crescent Star	17	5	5	7	24	28	-4	20
Stanmore Hawks	17	4	4	9	14	25	-11	16
Dulwich Hill	16	5	1	10	14	27	-13	16
Sydney University	17	3	3	11	23	39	-16	12
MSC Liverpool	16	3	3	10	19	44	-25	12

UNDER 19

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Manly Warringah Dolphins	17	13	2	2	45	21	24	41
Ryde City	17	11	2	4	40	27	13	35
Rockdale City Suns	15	10	3	2	37	19	16	33
Macarthur Rams	17	9	4	4	37	25	12	31
Dulwich Hill	16	9	3	4	27	14	13	30
Fraser Park Jets	17	7	1	9	30	24	6	22
Sydney University	16	6	4	6	26	33	-7	22
Hajduk Wanderers	17	6	2	9	24	28	-4	20
Stanmore Hawks	17	6	2	9	31	39	-8	20
AC United	17	4	4	9	28	33	-5	16
MSC Liverpool	17	1	4	12	21	42	-21	7
Hurstville City Crescent Star	17	1	3	13	16	57	-41	6

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NSW Divisions 1 & 2

DIVISION ONE ROUND-UP RD 17

By Paul Goodwin

WHITE CITY hosted WANDERERS CEDARS and needed a win to get back on track after a collapse that left them with nothing to show from their game at Hurstville that they had looked like winning until twenty minutes from time.

With Wanderers having several stars back, it was always going to be a good contest and, while a tough one for White City, it was certainly not beyond them. They kept in the game until the deadlock was broken in the 57th but there was no holding Jim Meerbanus men after that.

The first half was full of missed passes and a few scares for the league leaders, but it was far too windy for either side to build much up.

The Wanderers-Cedars had a few chances but so did White City and the first half finished scoreless.

After the break, The Wanderers Cedars continued pushing for a goal and scored their first through Serge Dawd, who has been outstanding for the side in the last few weeks.

White City was no match for the leaders as the game was mostly conducted The Wanderers-Cedars' way, but the game was played in a very competitive, yet sporting spirit.

A second goal, scored about two minutes after the first, this time from Khaled Elkerhani, just helped The Wanderers-Cedars cement their position.

An enjoyable game for the visitors was finished off through a third goal by Elkernahi in the 83rd, while a late penalty gave White City a consolation goal, put away by the competitions leading marksman, Danny Poljak, after Peter Kralja had been upended in the box.

It was also good for The Wanderers to welcome back from injury Cristian Ortiz who went on in the second half.

WESTERN RAGE met ILLAWARRA LIONS for the second week in a row and there should have been few secrets between them after the earlier draw on the South Coast. With their solid home form behind them Rage would have started hot favourites.

This time, with home advantage, Western Rage proved too strong and romped to a 3-0 win thanks to second half goals from Paolo Talone in the 48th minute, Daniel Borg in the 72nd and Louis Berbis in the 86th.

It was a brave effort by the Lions who were the latest to fall victims to this scoring machine based at The Calabrian Sports Centre.

BATHURST was at home again and needed to beat MT

PRITCHARD to regain a spot in the four, a task that looked tough for them.

The Mounties had the bye the previous weekend, however and having gone to the lead in the 18th minute to a Joe Moric shot from a Luke Tomich cross, they may have been too fresh and went down in the end to an enthusiastic and capable Bathurst.

Kerry Johns, in the 54th minute, put the locals on level terms with Mount Pritchard and this came after a barrage of shots had been saved initially, leaving Johns to pick up the crumbs.

In the 75th a lapse in the visitors defence saw Garrett Dowling snatch the winner.

NORTHERN TIGERS and HILLS UNITED squared up at Parklands Oval.

In a game that had all the hallmarks of a typical local derby the Tigers got off to a dream start with a goal inside ten minutes and kept going for the full ninety minutes just as their rivals did, resulting in a fine contest and one with a good degree of skill on show from both sides.

A stray pass from James Shelley was seized on by Daniel Mittiga who then got the better of Andrew Nicol before chipping the keeper expertly and finding the roof of the Hills net.

The Tigers had to withstand a pretty torrid spell for much of the remaining minutes of the first half and some fine saves were executed by home keeper Ricky Oppedisano, once from an Alan Lindley free kick, the Hills skipper clipping another effort just over the bar.

Towards the end of the half the Tigers came back strongly and Matt Frost shaved the upright from 30 yards out, while Jason Mesiti put one just over the bar and Daniel Mittiga was denied by stout defending near the line, after good work from Nick Femia on the left byline.

In the dying minutes of the half Lindleys cross put Julian Miller in, but his shot also came back off the woodwork.

A very lively second half saw countless chances for both sides

DIVISION ONE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Wanderers Cedars	16	12	2	2	39	24	15	38
Western Rage	16	9	4	3	29	17	12	31
Bathurst '75	16	7	4	5	17	17	0	25
Mt Pritchard	15	7	3	5	26	18	8	24
Hurstville ZSC	15	7	2	6	28	21	7	23
Northern Tigers	15	5	3	7	15	15	0	18
White City	16	3	6	7	32	34	-2	15
Illawarra Lions	15	3	6	6	23	27	-4	15
Mt Druitt Town	15	4	3	8	16	28	12	15
Belmore Hercules	16	6	2	8	18	23	5	14
Hills United	15	4	1	10	22	41	19	13

DIVISION TWO ROUND-UP RD 17

By Paul Goodwin

CAMDEN took on MINGARA LAKERS at Ron Dine Reserve, fresh from their second successive high scoring away win, the victory at Uni of NSW 5-3 coming a fortnight after they had done much the same to beat Auburn 4-3. Camden has a sniff now of finals football but they did it the hard way once more with a 4-3 victory recorded in similar fashion to their win at Auburn.

They had led 2-0, yet fell behind 3-2 before storming home late and collecting three more invaluable points.

Thus was a game that the Tigers could n't afford to drop points in against the lowly placed Lakers. They took an early lead when after 7 minutes sweeper Shannon McManus spotted the keeper off his line and used the gale force wind behind him to float the ball from 40 meters out over the keepers head and into the net.

After this the Laker's keeper was called upon to make some great saves to keep them in the match. This was until a minute before half time when Barry Graham beat a couple of defenders and placed a great ball to an unmarked Dean Mackenzie to slot home the Tigers second.

The Tigers were up 2-0 and were due to run against the wind in the second half, but Mingara took full advantage of the wind behind them and opened their score in the 60th minute, when Keenan Crum found himself in space and beat the Tigers keeper from inside the box.

Two minutes later a Tigers defensive error set up Mingara with their second chance of the game which Crum also slotted away.

Mingara, with their tails up and the wind behind them and on a roll, added another three minutes later to take the lead with a well worked move for Michael McGarvey to slot home.

This was the wake-up call the Tigers needed and they began to get their game back on track and in the 69th minute Mark Maloney made a good run down the left hand side and put over a good ball for Richard Dunnigan to hit a great shot which brought an even better save from the Lakers keeper, Daniels, but he was

unable to hang on to it and Grant Mackenzie was on the spot to put home the equaliser.

Within a minute Mark Maloney received the ball out wide on the right hand side and, seeing the keeper was off his line again, this time decided to drift one over his head and the keeper couldn't get back in time and watched as it went into the net.

The Tigers managed to hold on for the remainder of the game and collected the maximum points from a determined Mingara outfit.

HAKOAH in one of three Sunday games met UNI OF NSW at the ES Marks Field, bent on securing more valuable points to keep the pressure on at the top.

The home side won 2-0 with both goals coming in the first half and many more denied by the woodwork in the second.

A defensive lapse allowed Adam Joseph to run at the Uni defence and supply a pass for Terry Sperber to go on and beat the advancing keeper from close range.

Then Joseph, again, had a hand in the second when he laid on a pass for Adam Mammoilis who in turn found Ricky Neumann whose volley found the roof of the frame of the goal.

The woodwork came to the rescue of the students several times after the break, with Joseph, Sperber, Neumann and Mammoilis all smashing shots against the frame of the goal.

LIVERPOOL BOSSY had a tricky game against SCHOFIELDS to contend with, as their march to the title continued in earnest. The expected loss of Sead Kacanic to a pinched nerve in his back,

P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Verpon-Cessnib	1	3	3	29	11	13	3
Paranaham City	15	3	2	4	30	21	29
Auburn AIA	15	9	5	42	27	5	28
Hakoah	16	3	1	8	32	6	28
Garrison Lions	16	9	1	8	37	4	28
Schofields	15	9	0	6	51	9	27
Nepean Ass	14	8	2	4	31	32	26
Greystanes SC	17	7	3	6	29	5	24
Uni of NSW	14	5	8	21	26	9	17
Mingara Lakers	15	2	0	12	19	4	25
Holy Cross	16	0	0	16	35	7	20

did not eventuate and while it might have affected their chances, they are a young side and look to have reasonable depth.

As it turned out, Kacanic not only played but had a hand in both goals in his sides 2-1 win against Stan Ackerley's men, scoring one himself after helping team mate Mladen Damjanovic to the first of his sides goals on the day.

The back injury proved less troublesome than thought and the young talent was able to play a full game.

In midweek action Schofields Scorpions had dealt a severe blow to Nepeans hopes with a 1-0 win at the CSI ground thanks to a headed goal in the 18th minute from Kamahl Gabara, after a long throw into the box from Mark Mige.

That midweek effort told on Schofields who were down before half time and even some smart second half play could not rescue them.

Damjanovic opened the scoring in the 25th minute, but Schofields were able to respond in the 65th through Kamahl Gabara.

Missing the suspended Shane Cevenini, the visitors had yet another goal from Kamahl Gabara to keep them in the hunt and although they hit the woodwork a couple of times as well, it was the home side, Liverpool who got the result they needed so badly to stay ahead of the pack.

Amir Smajovic threaded a ball through from 30 yards out as stoppage time was due to begin and the skilful Kacanic was able to go around the last defender and the keeper to seal the match 2-1.

GREYSTANES met NEPEAN ASSOCIATION at Bathurst Street Park and with the visitors losing in midweek and also not having either Paul Richardson or Matt Borg available to them, they were dealt another blow when Marc Hoenselaars only completed the first half before retiring from the game.

The game ended scoreless which is of no help to Nepean and hardly gives Greystanes an accelerated passage into the semi finals either.

PARRAMATTA had the bye and AUBURN STAR also has the weekend off, due to the early withdrawal of Holy Cross Ryde.



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NSW Youth & Cadet Leagues

PREMIER YOUTH LEAGUE RD 19

Well we certainly have a competition on our hands and that means that the final six rounds will be vital for the top five clubs. They have broken away from the pack and it is difficult to see the current teams dropping out.

However, the order can and probably will change several times over the coming weeks. Olympic Sharks lead the way but Blacktown City, who have won the last three Club Championships and are pushing hard for their fourth, are applying considerable pressure from two points behind.

Northern Spirit is far from out of it in third position and they too are keen to claim the top spot. It seems certain that Marconi Stallions and Parramatta Eagles will fight out the fourth and fifth spots as they are lagging a bit behind the top three...

Olympic Sharks v Marconi Stallions

When ABSW spoke to Marconi on Sunday they were still in party mode after taking seven points from the high flying Sharks at Bates Drive. The Stallions 13s maintained their fifth placing on the table with a scoreless draw against the Sharks who subsequently slipped to fourth position.

A single goal from Grant Gulabovski settled the issue in the 14s and gave the visitors three more points. Continuing the trend for the day the Stallions' table-topping 15s helped themselves to the points as a result of strikes from Jerson Leon and Christopher Lunella.

Olympic scored their first goals for the day in the 17s when they saved the club from a whitewash with a 4-2 victory. Chris Camilleri scored a hat-trick and Chris Bouzanis got the other one for the home team while Joseph Duffell found the net and Edin Radaca converted a spot kick for the visitors.

Penrith Panthers v St George

Kingswood Park was once again a happy hunting ground for the Panthers as they took ten of the available points from the visiting Saints. Although every point is valuable at this level the good series of results hardly scratched the surface in helping the Panthers to climb the Combined table where they languish in eleventh position.

However, it has made things very difficult for the Saints as they struggle to avoid the wooden spoon. The home club got off to a great start with an emphatic 3-1 win over Saints' best placed team in the 13s to leave the Panthers in seventh place with a rough chance of earning a spot in the top five from the remaining games.

It will come as no surprise to astute observers of the game that the clubs drew 1-1 in the 14s. It was after all the eighth draw for each of them this season. Penrith resumed their winning ways in the 15s with a strong 2-0 victory and they finished the business for the day with a much closer than expected 1-0 win in the 17s.

SUPER YOUTH LEAGUE RD 19

Newcastle United continue to show the way on the Combined Table and they increased their lead to forty-three points last weekend when they earned seven points from their clash with their closest challengers, Bankstown City Cubs.

Macarthur Rams are thirteen points further back and can only realistically challenge for second place from this point onward. It looks as though Mingara Lakers, AC United and Fairfield Bulls will battle it out for the remaining two places in the top five.

Hills United v Bonnyrigg White Eagles

Hills have edged closer to the top five as a consequence of the nine points they gained from Bonnyrigg White Eagles at Oakville Reserve. However they still have a lot of work to do if they are to reach those lofty heights before the end of the season. On the other hand, the White Eagles continue to battle away at the bottom end of the table.

Bonnyrigg's fourth placed 13s provided the only joy for the club when they accounted for the home club 1-0. After that, they failed to score a goal in the remaining matches. Hills gave the visitors' 14s a bit of a fright as they came home strongly to win 1-0 against better placed opponents. The goal came from C. Andrews.

Third-placed Hills easily accounted for the bottom-rung Bonnyrigg in the 15s thanks to goals from G. Giovenali, Scott Faulkner and M. Foscholo. Hills' 17s continue to hold down second spot, seven points

behind the leaders as a result of their strong 4-0 win. Ben Lam, L. Qummou, A. Tovell and B. Pollack all found the net for the home club.

Hajduk Wanderers v Canterbury Marrickville

Hajduk Wanderers earned ten of the points on offer when they clashed with Canterbury Marrickville at Hajduk Stadium and they are now close enough to compete for a place in the Combined Table top five.

In a lower half of the 13s table battle the Wanderers won by the odd goal in five and leapfrogged Blacktown into tenth place. Hajduk would be pleased to have taken the points in the 14s but the 2-1 score line was bit closer than they would have expected considering their relative positions on the table. The Wanderers remain in fifth place.

The 15s mid-table clash brought about a scoreless draw and then the Wanderers came to the fore once again as their 17s jumped over Bankstown and nailed down fifth place as a result of their 1-0 win.

DIVISION ONE YOUTH LEAGUE RD 19

Schofield Scorpions have edged past Camden Tigers to take the lead on the Combined Table but this battle is far from over. They are sure to fight it out for the rest of the season and it should prove to be fascinating.

Third placed Ryde City are twenty-four points off the pace and it looks

certain that they will be locked in a fight of their own with Mt Pritchard, Parramatta City and Mt Druitt Town for the remaining three places in the top five.

Parramatta City v Dulwich Hill

Parramatta will be searching for answers about this encounter where they started so well and then crashed back to earth, losing nine points at Eric Primrose Reserve. The 13s table-leading Parramatta continued the good form that has seen them lose only once this season as they annihilated the visitors 7-0 and maintained their four point lead.

The home club did reasonably well in the 14s as they held their better performed opponents to a scoreless draw. Dulwich Hill then provided a surprise in the 15s with a 1-0 win against a City side that was looking to climb out of the bottom half of the table. The real shock of the day came in the 17s as Parramatta dropped back to fifth place following their 2-0 loss to mid-table Dulwich Hill.

THIS WEEK'S FIXTURES

SUPER YOUTH LEAGUE RD 20

Set 13 July	U13	U14	U15	U17		
Cook Park, St Marts	9:00 AM	10:15 AM	11:30 AM	1:15 PM	Macarthur Rams	
Hensley Athletic Field	10:00 AM	11:30 AM	1:00 PM	2:45 PM	Eastern Suburbs	
Ninevech Field	10:00 AM	11:30 AM	1:00 PM	2:45 PM	Fairfield Bulls	
Parklands Oval	10:00 AM	11:30 AM	1:00 PM	2:45 PM	Ku-Ring-Gai Assoc	
Jensen Park	10:00 AM	11:30 AM	1:00 PM	2:45 PM	Bankstown City	
Marrickville Oval	10:00 AM	11:30 AM	1:00 PM	2:45 PM	Canterbury M'ville	
Hajduk Stadium	10:00 AM	1:30 PM	1:30 PM	2:45 PM	Hajduk Wanderers	

DIVISION 1 YOUTH LEAGUE RD 20

Set 13 July	U13	U14	U15	U17		
JS - 9	9:15 AM	1:15 AM	11:30 AM	1:15 PM	Schofields Scorpions	
Benson's Lane	10:00 AM	1:15 AM	1:00 PM	2:45 PM	Hawkesbury City	
Camdenville Oval	10:00 AM	11:30 AM	1:00 PM	2:45 PM	Hurstville City CS	
Ron Dine Reserve	10:00 AM	11:30 AM	1:00 PM	2:45 PM	Carlton Tigers	
Arlington Oval	10:00 AM	1:15 AM	1:00 PM	2:45 PM	Dulwich Hill	
Garside Park	10:00 AM	11:30 AM	1:00 PM	2:45 PM	Granville Assoc	
Hammondville Park	10:00 AM	11:30 AM	1:00 PM	2:45 PM	MSC Liverpool	

PREMIER CADET LEAGUE RD 20

Set 13 July	U11	U12	
Marconi 2	10:15 AM	Marconi Stallions	v Parramatta Eagles
Cromer Park	10:15 AM	Manly Warringah Dolphins	v St George

P.Jin Park	9:00 AM	10:15 AM	Central Coast Coasters	v Sutherland Shire Sharks
Camber Park	9:00 AM	10:15 AM	Leichhardt Tigers	v Olympic Sharks

Sat 13 July	J11	U12	
Kingswood Park	10:00 AM	11:00 AM	Penrith Panthers
Gribble Stadion	10:00 AM	11:00 AM	Blacktown City Demons
Blaxland Park 2	10:00 AM	11:00 AM	Wollongong Wolves

SUPER CADET LEAGUE RD 15

Sun 14 July	U11	U12	
Abruzzi Oval	8:45 AM	9:45 AM	AC United
Carriageworks	10:00 AM	11:00 AM	Fairfield Bulls
Connie's Oval	10:00 AM	11:00 AM	Eastern Suburbs
Eastwood Oval	10:00 AM	11:00 AM	Canterbury Marrickville
Erina Oval	10:00 AM	11:00 AM	Hajduk Wanderers

DIVISION 1 CADET LEAGUE RD 15

Sun 14 July	U11	U12	
Rockdale Illawarra Field	-	-	Canterbury Tigers
Cook Park, Mt Pritchard	9:45 AM	10:45 AM	Hawkesbury City
St George Stadium	9:45 AM	10:45 AM	Ryde City
Macedonia Field	9:45 AM	10:45 AM	Stanmore Hawks
Eric Primrose Reserve	9:45 AM	10:45 AM	Schofield Scorpions
Hammondville Park	9:45 AM	10:45 AM	

NSW Youth & Cadet Leagues

RESULTS AND TABLES

PREMIER YOUTH LEAGUE: ROUND 19: GRADE 13

Centra. Coast Coasters 0 Southern Branch YL 1 Penrith Panthers 3 St George 1, Olympic Sharks 0 Parramatta Stallions 0 Northern Spirit 0 Leichhardt Tigers 1, Sutherland Shire Sharks 0 Wollongong Wolves 1 Blacktown City Demons 2 Sydney United 0, Parramatta Eagles 5 Manly Warringah Dolphins 0 GRADE 14: Centra. Coast Coasters 0 Southern Branch YL 1 Penrith Panthers 1 St George 1 Olympic Sharks 0 Marconi Stallions 1 Northern Spirit 4 Leichhardt Tigers 0, Sutherland Shire Sharks 4 Wollongong Wolves 1 Blacktown City Demons 5 Sydney United 0, Parramatta Eagles 1 Manly Warringah Dolphins 0 GRADE 15: Central Coast Coasters 2 Southern Branch YL 1 Penrith Panthers 2 St George 0, Olympic Sharks 0 Marconi Stallions 2 Northern Spirit 1 Leichhardt Tigers 1, Sutherland Shire Sharks 0 Wollongong Wolves 3, Blacktown City Demons 5 Sydney United 0, Parramatta Eagles 3 Manly Warringah Dolphins 0.

SUPER YOUTH LEAGUE: ROUND 19: GRADE 13

Macarthur Rams 0 Fairfield Bulls 1, Mingara Lakers 2 Eastern Suburbs Association 1 AC United 1 Ku-Ring-Gai Association 3 Hills United 0 Bonnyrigg White Eagles 1 Blacktown Association 0 Nepean Association 5, Newcastle United 3 Bankstown City Cubs 0 Hajduk Wanderers 3 Canterbury Marrickville 2 GRADE 14: Macarthur Rams 2 Fairfield Bulls 0, Mingara Lakers 2 Eastern Suburbs Association 0, AC United 4 Ku-Ring-Gai Association 0, Hills United 1 Bonnyrigg White Eagles 0, Blacktown Association 5 Nepean Association 1 Newcastle United 1 Bankstown City Cub 1 Hajduk Wanderers 2 Canterbury Marrickville 1 GRADE 15: Macarthur Rams 0 Fairfield Bulls 1 Mingara Lakers 2 Eastern Suburbs Association 3, AC United 1 Ku-Ring-Gai Association 3, Hills United 3 Bonnyrigg White Eagles 0, Blacktown Association 3 Nepean Association 2 Newcastle United 1 Bankstown City Cub 2 Hajduk Wanderers 0 Canterbury Marrickville 0. GRADE 17: Macarthur Rams 1 Fairfield Bulls 0 Mingara Lakers 2 Eastern Suburbs Association 1 AC United 3 Ku-Ring-Gai Association 1, Hills United 4 Bonnyrigg White Eagles 0, Blacktown Association 3 Nepean Association 0 Newcastle United 3 Bankstown City Cub 1 Hajduk Wanderers 1 Canterbury Marrickville 0.

Sutherland Shire Sharks 0 Wollongong Wolves 2 Blacktown City Demons 6 Sydney United 0, Parramatta Eagles 0 Manly Warringah Dolphins 1 Olympic Sharks 2 Marconi Stallions 0, Penrith Panthers 1 St George 0, Centra. Coast Coasters 1 Southern Branch YL 1

Hajduk Wanderers 1 Eastern Suburbs Association 5, Mingara Lakers 2 AC United 3, Bankstown City Cubs 1 Canterbury Marrickville 0, Bonnyrigg White Eagles 0 Macarthur Rams 3, Fairfield Bulls 1 Hills United 5 GRADE 12: Hajduk Wanderers 0 Eastern Suburbs Association 3, Mingara Lakers 3 AC United 4, Bankstown City Cubs 1 Canterbury Marrickville 2 Bonnyrigg White Eagles 1 Macarthur Rams 1 Fairfield Bulls 0 Hills United 5

Penrith Panthers 1 St George 0, Olympic Sharks 1 Marconi Stallions 2 Southern Branch YL 1 Penrith Panthers 2 St George 0, Olympic Sharks 0 Marconi Stallions 2 Northern Spirit 1 Leichhardt Tigers 1, Sutherland Shire Sharks 4 Wollongong Wolves 1 Blacktown City Demons 5 Sydney United 0, Parramatta Eagles 1 Manly Warringah Dolphins 0 GRADE 16: Central Coast Coasters 2 Southern Branch YL 1 Penrith Panthers 2 St George 0, Olympic Sharks 0 Marconi Stallions 2 Northern Spirit 1 Leichhardt Tigers 1, Sutherland Shire Sharks 0 Wollongong Wolves 3, Blacktown City Demons 5 Sydney United 0, Parramatta Eagles 3 Manly Warringah Dolphins 0.

SUPER CADET LEAGUE: ROUND 14: GRADE 11

11: Hajduk Wanderers 1 Eastern Suburbs Association 5, Mingara Lakers 2 AC United 3, Bankstown City Cubs 1 Canterbury Marrickville 0, Bonnyrigg White Eagles 0 Leichhardt Tigers 0, Sutherland Shire Sharks 4 Wollongong Wolves 1 Blacktown City Demons 5 Sydney United 0, Parramatta Eagles 1 Manly Warringah Dolphins 0 GRADE 15: Central Coast Coasters 2 Southern Branch YL 1 Penrith Panthers 2 St George 0, Olympic Sharks 4 Marconi Stallions 2 Northern Spirit 1 Leichhardt Tigers 1, Sutherland Shire Sharks 0 Wollongong Wolves 3, Blacktown City Demons 5 Sydney United 0, Parramatta Eagles 1 Manly Warringah Dolphins 0.

SUPER YOUTH LEAGUE: ROUND 19: GRADE 13

Macarthur Rams 0 Fairfield Bulls 1, Mingara Lakers 2 Eastern Suburbs Association 1 AC United 1 Ku-Ring-Gai Association 3 Hills United 0 Bonnyrigg White Eagles 1 Blacktown Association 0 Nepean Association 5, Newcastle United 3 Bankstown City Cub 0 Hajduk Wanderers 3 Canterbury Marrickville 2 GRADE 14: Macarthur Rams 2 Fairfield Bulls 0, Mingara Lakers 2 Eastern Suburbs Association 0, AC United 4 Ku-Ring-Gai Association 0, Hills United 1 Bonnyrigg White Eagles 0, Blacktown Association 5 Nepean Association 1 Newcastle United 1 Bankstown City Cub 1 Hajduk Wanderers 2 Canterbury Marrickville 1 GRADE 15: Macarthur Rams 0 Fairfield Bulls 1 Mingara Lakers 2 Eastern Suburbs Association 3, AC United 1 Ku-Ring-Gai Association 3, Hills United 3 Bonnyrigg White Eagles 0, Blacktown Association 3 Nepean Association 2 Newcastle United 1 Bankstown City Cub 2 Hajduk Wanderers 0 Canterbury Marrickville 0. GRADE 17: Macarthur Rams 1 Fairfield Bulls 0 Mingara Lakers 2 Eastern Suburbs Association 1 AC United 3 Ku-Ring-Gai Association 1, Hills United 4 Bonnyrigg White Eagles 0, Blacktown Association 3 Nepean Association 0 Newcastle United 3 Bankstown City Cub 1 Hajduk Wanderers 1 Canterbury Marrickville 0.

DIVISION ONE CADET LEAGUE: ROUND 14: GRADE 11: Camden Tigers 5 Mt Pritchard 0, Hawkesbury City 1 Hurstville City Crescent Star 1, Ryde City 1 Illawarra Lions 2, Schofield Scorpions 1 Mt Druitt Town 1 Stanmore Hawks 5 Rockdale City Suns 0, MSC Liverpool 1 Parramatta City 0 GRADE 12: Camden Tigers 1 Mt Pritchard 0, Hawkesbury City 2 Hurstville City Crescent Star 5, Ryde City 3 Illawarra Lions 1, Schofield Scorpions 1 Mt Druitt Town 1, Stanmore Hawks 0 Rockdale City Suns 1, MSC Liverpool 1 Parramatta City 0.

DIVISION ONE YOUTH LEAGUE: ROUND 19: GRADE 13: Ryde City 4 Hawkesbury City 0, Illawarra Lions 2 Hurstville City Crescent Star 0, Mt Pritchard 3 Camden Tigers 1, Rockdale City Suns 1 Stanmore Hawks 5, Mt Druitt Town 0 Schofield Scorpions 3, Parramatta City 7 Dulwich Hill 0, MSC Liverpool 0 Granville Association 1 GRADE 14: Ryde City 2 Hawkesbury City 0, Illawarra Lions 0 Hurstville City Crescent Star 0, Mt Pritchard 0 Camden Tigers 0, Rockdale City Suns 0 Stanmore Hawks 1, Mt Druitt Town 3 Schofield Scorpions 2, Parramatta City 0 Dulwich Hill 0 MSC Liverpool 1 Granville Association 2. GRADE 15: Ryde City 2 Hawkesbury City 0, Illawarra Lions 1 Hurstville City Crescent Star 0 Mt Pritchard 0 Camden Tigers 2 Rockdale City Suns 1 Stanmore Hawks 1 Mt Druitt Town 1 Schofield Scorpions 2 Parramatta City 0 Dulwich Hill 1 MSC Liverpool 2 Granville Association 2 GRADE 17: Ryde City 0 Hawkesbury City 1 Illawarra Lions Hurstville City Crescent Star (Game Abandoned) Mt Pritchard 2 Camden Tigers 2 Rockdale City Suns 2 Stanmore Hawks 0 Mt Druitt Town 0 Schofield Scorpions 3, Parramatta City 0 Dulwich Hill 2, MSC Liverpool 4 Granville Association 2 PREMIER CADET LEAGUE: ROUND 19: GRADE 11

11: Northern Spirit 3 Leichhardt Tigers 0, Sutherland Shire Sharks 2 Wollongong Wolves 2, Blacktown City Demons 3 Sydney United 0, Parramatta Eagles 0 Manly Warringah Dolphins 2, Olympic Sharks 1 Marconi Stallions 3, Penrith Panthers 5 St George 1 Centra. Coast Coasters 1 Southern Branch YL 0 GRADE 12: Northern Spirit 2 Leichhardt Tigers 1

GRADE 17

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GDPts
Blacktown City Demons	20	18	0	2	57	14	43
Wollongong Wolves	20	15	2	3	45	12	33
Olympic Sharks	20	13	2	5	42	23	19
Northern Spirit	20	11	4	5	34	18	16
Sutherland Shire Sharks	20	12	2	6	34	21	9
Leichhardt Tigers	20	9	3	8	38	25	11
Mingara Lakers	20	8	3	8	27	23	4
Penrith Panthers	20	7	3	10	30	41	11
Central Coast Coasters	19	6	5	8	18	24	6
Southern Branch YL	20	5	5	10	27	49	22
Sydney United	20	5	4	11	24	35	11
Marconi Stallions	20	6	1	13	28	45	17
Manly Warringah	19	4	1	14	18	40	22
St George	19	0	1	17	15	57	42

GRADE 17

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GDPts
Newcastle United	19	17	1	1	73	17	56
Hills United	19	14	3	2	39	8	31
Mingara Lakers	19	12	5	2	42	20	22
AC United	19	11	3	5	41	21	20
Hajduk Wanderers	19	11	3	5	48	29	19
Bankstown City Cubs	19	11	2	6	50	30	20
Fairfield Bulls	19	7	4	8	92	36	4
Canterbury Marrickville	19	7	4	8	27	33	6
Macarthur Rams	19	5	4	10	31	49	18
Bonnyrigg White Eagles	19	5	3	11	28	40	12
Ku-Ring-Gai Assoc	19	5	2	12	30	44	14
Blacktown Assoc	19	3	3	13	27	53	36
Eastern Suburbs Assoc	19	2	3	14	15	55	40
Nepean Assoc	19	2	2	15	18	56	38

COMBINED

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GDPts
Olympic Sharks	80	51	14	20	176	77	125167
Blacktown City Demons	80	51	12	17	168	64	104163
Northern Spirit	80	48	13	19	168	77	1517
Marconi Stallions	80	48	18	19	1519	60	1147
Macarthur Rams	76	41	14	21	1486	62	1203
Wollongong Wolves	80	31	11	38	121111	10	104
Leichhardt Tigers	80	31	11	38	95154	59104	
Central Coast Coasters	76	28	19	29	92	46	103
Sutherland Shire Sharks	80	34	14	32	102119	19	99
Sydney United	80	26	18	38	102119	17	94
Penrith Panthers	80	26	14	40	88144	56	92
Southern Branch YL	80	20	15	45	78168	90	75
Manly Warringah	76	15	11	50	63149	44	58
St George	76	10	12	54	72161	87	1242

SUPER YOUTH LEAGUE: GRADE 13

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GDPts
Nepean Assoc	19	18	2	1	71	12	59
Newcastle United	19	13	5	1	52	10	44
Macarthur Rams	19	12	2	5	49	25	38
Bonnyrigg White Eagles	18	9	3	5	32	30	2
Fairfield Bulls	19	10	2	7	45	41	4
Eastern Suburbs Assoc	19	9	4	6	45	27	18
Mingara Lakers	19	9	4	6	18	24	6
Ku-Ring-Gai Assoc	19	6	5	8	18	24	6
Bankstown City Cubs	19	6	4	9	13	35	22
Hajduk Wanderers	19	5	4	10	27	44	17
Blacktown Assoc	19	5	2	12	17	37	20
Canterbury Marrickville	19	4	3	12	20	50	30
AC United	19	2	4	13	20	45	20
Hills United	19	0	5	13	18	38	20



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GRASS ROOTS SOCCER

Communication is one the most vital factors in the running of a successful sport. Time and time again the head does not know what the tail is doing and vice versa.

Good communication practices need to be in place and although we are the largest Federation in Australia having over 130,000 players I am

currently conducting workshop/seminars for Associations on Financial Management, Insurance, Child Protection, Privacy Legislation, Competitions and Marketing and Merchandising. It is also a chance to discuss issues on soccer.

From next week a monthly newsletter will be

sent to all clubs and associations with up to date information on Amateur soccer. I also ask for your feedback or any questions you might have, address them to me, Michael Quaraby, General Manager at nswasf@nswasf.com.au.

Sport is for fun.

2002 NSW STATE TITLES

16 — 19 JULY 2002

Venues:

Under 13 — Berrabool Sporting Complex, Berrabool Drive, Menmbula NSW
Under 14 — West End Oval, Menigal Street, Griffith NSW
Under 15 — Lighthouse Oval, Deening Street, Milton Ulladulla NSW
Under 17 — Plum Park, Tuggerah Street, Lisarow NSW

Tuesday 16 July

RD	TEAM	TEAM	AGE	VENUE	TIME
1	Camden Tigers	Western	U17	Plum Park	09:30
1	Ryde City	Western	U13	Berrabool Sporting Comp	10:00
1	Camden Tigers	Western	U14	West End Oval	10:00
1	Granville Ass.	Western	U15	Lighthouse Oval	10:00
2	Southern	S'land Sharks	U17	Plum Park	09:30
2	Southern	Camden Tigers	U13	Berrabool Sporting Comp	10:00
2	Southern	Sydney 2	U14	West End Oval	10:00
2	Southern	Camden Tigers	U15	Lighthouse Oval	10:00
3	Central Coast	Riverina	U17	Plum Park	11:20
3	Central Coast	Rivenna	U13	Berrabool Sporting Comp	11:30
3	Central Coast	Rivenna	U14	West End Oval	11:30
3	Central Coast	Rivenna	U15	Lighthouse Oval	11:30
4	Hills United	Parramatta City	U17	Plum Park	11:20
4	Olympic Sharks	Granville	U13	Berrabool Sporting Comp	11:30
4	Olympic Sharks	Mt Pritchard	U14	West End Oval	11:30
4	Hills United	W'onggong Wolves	U15	Lighthouse Oval	11:30
5	Camden Tigers	Ryde City	U13	Berrabool Sporting Comp	13:00
5	Sydney 2	Camden Tigers	U14	West End Oval	13:00
5	Camden Tigers	Granville Ass.	U15	Lighthouse Oval	13:00
5	Sutherland Sharks	Camden Tigers	U17	Plum Park	13:10
6	Western	Southern	U13	Berrabool Sporting Comp	13:00
6	Western	Southern	U14	West End Oval	13:00
6	Western	Southern	U15	Lighthouse Oval	13:00
6	Western	Southern	U17	Plum Park	13:10
7	Olympic Sharks	Central Coast	U13	Berrabool Sporting Comp	14:30
7	Olympic Sharks	Central Coast	U14	West End Oval	14:30
7	Hills United	Central Coast	U15	Lighthouse Oval	14:30
7	Hills United	Central Coast	U17	Plum Park	15:00
8	Granville	Rivenna	U13	Berrabool Sporting Comp	14:30
8	Mt Pritchard	Rivenna	U14	West End Oval	14:30
8	W'onggong Wolves	Rivenna	U15	Lighthouse Oval	14:30
8	Parramatta City	Rivenna	U17	Plum Park	15:00

Thursday 18 July

RD	TEAM	TEAM	AGE	VENUE	TIME
17	Granville	Central Coast	U13	Berrabool Sporting Comp	09:30
17	Mt Pritchard	Central Coast	U14	West End Oval	09:30
17	Wollongong Wolves	Central Coast	U15	Lighthouse Oval	09:30
17	Parramatta City	Central Coast	U17	Plum Park	09:30
18	Western	Camden Tigers	U13	Berrabool Sporting Comp	09:30
18	Sydney 2	Camden Tigers	U14	West End Oval	09:30
18	Western	Camden Tigers	U15	Lighthouse Oval	09:30
18	S'land Sharks	Camden Tigers	U17	Plum Park	09:30
19	Olympic Sharks	Ryde City	U13	Berrabool Sporting Comp	11:00
19	Olympic Sharks	Camden Tigers	U14	West End Oval	11:00
19	Hills United	Granville Ass.	U15	Lighthouse Oval	11:00
19	Hills United	Camden Tigers	U17	Plum Park	11:20
20	Southern	Riverina	U13	Berrabool Sporting Comp	11:00
20	Southern	Riverina	U14	West End Oval	11:00
20	Southern	Riverina	U15	Lighthouse Oval	11:00
20	Southern	Riverina	U17	Plum Park	11:20
21	Central Coast	Camden Tigers	U13	Berrabool Sporting Comp	13:00
21	Central Coast	Sydney 2	U14	West End Oval	13:00
21	Central Coast	Camden Tigers	U15	Lighthouse Oval	13:00
21	S'land Sharks	Camden Tigers	U17	Plum Park	13:10
22	Mt Pritchard	Western	U14	West End Oval	13:00
22	Wollongong Wolves	Western	U15	Lighthouse Oval	13:00
22	Parramatta City	Western	U17	Plum Park	13:10
23	Ryde City	Southern	U13	Berrabool Sporting Comp	14:30
23	Camden Tigers	Southern	U14	West End Oval	14:30
23	Granville Ass.	Southern	U15	Lighthouse Oval	14:30
23	Camden Tigers	Southern	U17	Plum Park	15:00
24	Riverina	Olympic Sharks	U13	Berrabool Sporting Comp	14:30
24	Riverina	Olympic Sharks	U14	West End Oval	14:30
24	Riverina	Hills United	U15	Lighthouse Oval	14:30
24	Riverina	Hills United	U17	Plum Park	15:00

Wednesday 17 July

RD	TEAM	TEAM	AGE	VENUE	TIME
25	Ryde City	Central Coast	U13	Berrabool Sporting Comp	09:00
25	Camden Tigers	Central Coast	U14	West End Oval	09:00
25	Granville Ass.	Central Coast	U15	Lighthouse Oval	09:00
25	Camden Tigers	Central Coast	U17	Plum Park	09:30
26	Riverina	Western	U13	Berrabool Sporting Comp	09:00
26	Riverina	Western	U14	West End Oval	09:00
26	Riverina	Western	U15	Lighthouse Oval	09:00
26	Riverina	Western	U17	Plum Park	09:30
27	Olympic Sharks	Camden Tigers	U13	Berrabool Sporting Comp	10:30
27	Olympic Sharks	Sydney 2	U14	West End Oval	10:30
27	Hills United	Camden Tigers	U15	Lighthouse Oval	10:30
27	Hills United	S'land Sharks	U17	Plum Park	11:20
28	Granville	Southern	U13	Berrabool Sporting Comp	10:30
28	Mt Pritchard	Southern	U14	West End Oval	10:30
28	W'onggong Wolves	Southern	U15	Lighthouse Oval	10:30
28	Parramatta City	Southern	U17	Plum Park	11:20

WORLD

SAMBA PARTY ERUPTS IN BRAZIL

A samba party to rival the best of Brazilian carnivals rocked the country as hundreds of thousands welcomed the country's soccer champions, winners of a record fifth World Cup.

Draped in yellow and green, now weary flag-waving fans packed into the streets of Brazil's biggest city here to greet their soccer heroes, who arrived from an enormous mountain-to-beach celebration in Rio de Janeiro.

Some of the players had already left for their home states, but that did not dampen the wild party as team captain Cafu held the Cup trophy above his head and paraded through the city's sambadrome to a frenetic samba drum beat.

Beletti, Cafu, Denilson, Juninho Paulista, Kaka, Marcos, Ricardinho and Roberto Carlos were greeted during the dawn parade as national heroes by a crowd of some six thousand hardcore fans, others having gone to bed after days of non-stop celebration.

Exhausted but elated, the players



Cafu: Brazil's victorious captain kicked off the party celebrations with the World Cup win.

earlier had rejoiced in Rio with thousands of screaming supporters who had lined the streets of the sun-drenched city for hours to welcome them.

Feted as heroes, they kicked off their victory tour last Monday in Brasilia, where the plane bringing them home from Japan was escorted to the tarmac by four Brazilian Air Force jets.

Team captain Cafu was the first player to disembark from the plane, and hoisted the World Cup in the air for the waiting fans to relish.

Above him, written by skywriting planes, were the words "The Fifth."

Close behind him came World Cup hero Ronaldo, who said as he set foot on Brazilian soil: "I am happy and so are the Brazilian people."

Authorities said 500,000 people crowded along the 15 kilometre (nine mile) route to the presidential palace, where Cardoso decorated the team and coach Luiz Felipe Scolari with the National Order of Merit.



One of Brazil's leading newspapers the 'Correio Braziliense' has the cover of their World Cup stars parading on the front cover.

Ronaldo Will Stay With Inter says Agent

Ronaldo will soon be back at Inter Milan to help them win the Italian championship, the Brazilian World Cup winner's agent stated to the media, dampening press speculation about a move to European champions Real Madrid.

"He's going to spend some time with his family now and he'll be returning to Italy on a high to win the championship with Inter," Alexandre Martins told the ANSA news agency.

Ronaldo's Brazilian teammate Roberto Carlos has asked Real president Florentino Perez to try and sign him, the Gazzetta dello sport newspaper had earlier reported "Real like to sign the best players in the world and Ronaldo is certainly one of those," Real leftback Roberto Carlos told the paper.

Ronaldo, quoted in the Spanish paper AS, remarked: "Robert Carlos is always talking about Real."

"For me I belong to Inter. If they want me all they have

to do is get in contact with the club and we can all talk about it together."

But his transfer to Real seems highly improbable judged by comments made by Inter president Massimo Moratti.

"It's 100 percent that he'll be staying here because he has to win the 'scudetto' (title) for us," said Moratti about the 78 million dollar rated striker who scored both goals in Brazil's win over Germany in the World Cup final last Sunday.



Ronaldo: Golden Boot winner will be back at Inter this season

Middlesbrough sign Maccarone, Juninho return on the cards

English Premiership side Middlesbrough have signed premis-

ing Italian striker Massimo Maccarone and agreed a fee with Atletico Madrid for Brazilian World Cup winner Juninho.

The north eastern side disclosed the news of the proposed double deal on their official internet site as their rebuilding plans for next season got well underway.

The 22-year-old Italian international Maccarone, who has been pursued by Middlesbrough boss Steve McClaren for three months, joined for a club record fee of 8.15 million pounds (13 million dollars) from Serie

B side Empoli.

They also hope to tie up the return of midfield genius Juninho, who starred for the club for two years in the 1990s, in the next few days.

"Negotiations with Empoli were longer than expected, but Maccarone is now a Middlesbrough player," McClaren told the club website.

"I think it is a great signing for the club, one which will excite the fans, not just for now, but for the future."

McClaren is also confident he can convince fans favourite Juninho his future lies in England.



Massimo Maccarone: Former Empoli striker has signed with Middlesbrough.

Blanc strikes new deal with Manchester United

Former France star Laurent Blanc has made a u-turn on his vow to quit football this summer by signing a new one-year deal with English giants Manchester United, the club's official Internet site stated.

Blanc, who won the World Cup and European championship with France before quitting international football, said it would be his last season when he joined United from Italian side Inter Milan.

Although United have been

linked with a host of big-name centre-halves over the summer - including Leeds United star Rio Ferdinand and Lazio's Alessandro Nesta - Blanc has decided to stay put for one more year.

"I'm very happy. I can't wait for the new season to start," 36 year-old Blanc said on Manchester United's website.

United manager Alex Ferguson, who also last season turned his back on quitting to sign a new deal, added: "I'm delighted."



Laurent Blanc: Former French international has agreed to a 1-year deal with Manchester United.

KING KAHN NOW GOLDEN

German captain Oliver Kahn has been awarded FIFA's Golden Ball, for the most outstanding player at the World Cup.

The governing body announced on Tuesday that the 33-year-old keeper, the first custodian in the history of the award given to the man judged to be the player of the tournament, was the latest recipient despite the error that gave Ronaldo his first goal in the final.

Kahn garnered 25 per cent of the votes of the world's media present at the World Cup final won 2-0 by Brazil on Sunday, primarily for conceding just one goal in six previous matches and making some stunning and superb saves.

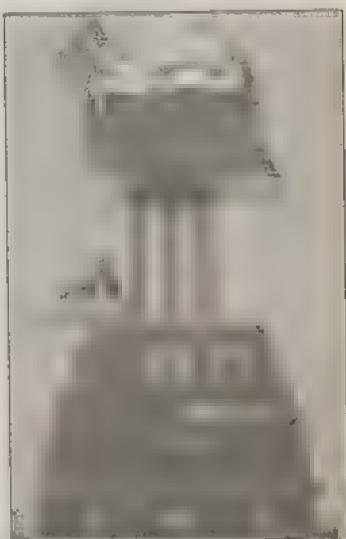
It is the second time that the award was given to a World Cup runner up, following Ronaldo crowning after his team's three-nil loss to France in 1998.



Oliver Kahn has been named the Golden Ball winner of the 2002 World Cup tournament.

Ronaldo — who swooped on Kahn's failure to hold a shot from Rivaldo to score the first goal, and subsequently the second as well — was second with 21 per cent of the vote and Korea Republic's Hong Myung-bo third with 18 per cent.

The five previous winners of the Golden Ball were Paolo Rossi (1982), Diego Maradona (1986), Toto Schillaci (1990), Romario (1994) and Ronaldo (1998), who narrowly failed to become the first player to win the award twice.



The Golden Ball

Belgium wins FIFA Fair Play Award

FIFA announced that Belgium had won the FIFA Fair Play Award at the 2002 FIFA World Cup Korea/Japan.

Sweden finished second in the FIFA Fair Play standings and the Japanese team took the third-place spot.

As the winners of the FIFA Fair Play competition, Belgium will receive a trophy, medals, diploma and a voucher valued at USD 50,000, which shall be exchanged for a supply of

Adidas equipment to be used exclusively for youth team development in Belgium.

The FIFA Fair Play Award is given to the team with the best record of fair play according to a points system and criteria established by the FIFA Fair Play Committee. Since the award's inception in 1978, only

FIFA Fair Play Award	
Winners	
1978 - Argentina	
1982 - Brazil	
1986 - Brazil	
1990 - England	
1994 - Brazil	
1998 - England / France	
2002 - Belgium	

Argentina is the only host

country to have claimed the award (1978) and England took home the prize twice: once in 1990 and then in 1998. England shared the honour with France.

The overall assessment of the teams during the final competition was calculated by adding the points attained at each match and dividing this figure by the number of matches played.

CURRENT FIFA WORLD STANDING ★ Top 20 ★

1 Brazil 852 points (up 1)	11 USA 712 (up 2)
=2 Argentina 784 (no change)	12 Turkey 707 (up 10)
=2 France 784 (down 1)	13 Denmark 704 (up 7)
4 Spain 774 (up 4)	14 Ireland 699 (up 1)
5 Germany 765 (up 6)	15 The Netherlands 697 (down 6)
6 Mexico 739 (up 1)	16 Yugoslavia 689 (down 6)
7 Portugal 731 (down 2)	17 Cameroon 680 (no change)
8 England 728 (up 4)	18 Paraguay 679 (no change)
9 Colombia 725 (down 5)	19 Belgium 678 (up 4)
10 Italy 720 (down 4)	20 Sweden 674 (down 1)



After their 2002 World Cup triumph, Brazil are back on top of the FIFA rankings.

Belgium side took out the 2002 FIFA Fair Play Award.

WORLD NEWS

Ljungberg to miss start of season

Midfield player Fredrik Ljungberg underwent surgery last weekend which could see him miss the start of Arsenal's UEFA Champions League campaign.

The Swedish international, who was arguably the FA Premiership's most impressive player in the final three months of the season, will have an exploratory operation to mend a small tear to the cartilage around his hip joint.

The recuperation time is expected to be two months, which

could put his participation in Arsenal's opening Champions League game on 17/18 September in doubt. The English champions were eliminated at the second group stage last season and will be determined to improve on that in 2002/03.

Ljungberg's injury meant he missed Sweden's last two games at the World Cup, against Senegal, who knocked them out in the second round, and Argentina, with whom they drew 1-1 in the final group game.



Freddie Ljungberg is to undergo knee surgery and may miss the start of Arsenal's campaign.

Kashima chief Zico in line for Japan job

Brazil legend Zico has emerged as the favourite to become the next Japan coach following Philippe Troussier's resignation.

"The terms of his contract have to be approved at the executive board meeting on July 20," said JFA president Shunichiro Okano.

The former midfield genius has been in Japan since the advent of the J-League in 1993, working with four-time champions Kashima Antlers.

Zico, though, is not the only foreign coach on the list. France's Alain Jacquet has been linked with the post, as has Bora Milutinovic, who coached China at the World Cup.

Troussier quit following Japan's second-round loss to Turkey, ending a four-year tenure which also saw the nation crowned Asian Cup winners in Lebanon in 2000.



Brazilian legend Zico has emerged as a strong favourite to take the helm of the Japanese national team.

AEK CLOSE IN ON URUGUAYAN DEFENDER

AEK are close to sealing the loan signing of Uruguayan defender Sebastian Morquio from Argentinian side Huracan. He was expected to arrive in Athens on Wednesday.

"This offer is very important for me as my dream has always been to play in Europe," he said.

"I don't want to appear overconfident and I hope that the transfer can go through."

He could be set to see action in the Champions' League next season should AEK complete the signing and then progress through their qualifying match.

The Greek side have offered £550,000 for the experienced defender but Huracan are reportedly more interested in a loan deal with an option to sell their current captain for a higher fee should he impress.

With 21 goals in 111 matches, Morquio

will be hoping to fill the gap left by the exit of World Cup star and fellow South American Carlos Gamara, who is expected to sign for Internazionale.



Carlos Gamara will leave AEK for Inter to be replaced by Sebastian Morquio in Athens.

Birmingham chase Olisadebe

Premiership newcomers Birmingham have bid £3.8m for Panathinaikos striker Emmanuel Olisadebe, according to reports in Poland.

The 23-year-old has attracted interest from some of Europe's top clubs following impressive performances in last season's Champions League.

Panathinaikos took up an option to permanently sign Nigerian-born Olisadebe from Polonia Warsaw for £800,000 in May this year.

He had previously been on loan from the Polish side.

Olisadebe had a disappointing World Cup, scoring only once as Poland went out of the competition at the group stage.

But Birmingham boss Steve Bruce sees him as the man to spearhead his side's first campaign in the Premiership.



Newly promoted side Birmingham City in the Premier League is touting Emmanuel Olisadebe.

Senegal duo warned to keep feet on ground

Lens coach Joel Muller has told Senegal World Cup stars Ferdinand Coly and Papa Bouba Diop to "come down from the moon" after they were linked with moves to England.

Arsenal are reportedly tracking 29-year-old defender Coly, while Manchester United are interested in Bouba Diop, according to Lens.

But Muller claims the duo still have a lot to prove in France before they should start thinking about the Premiership.

"What they did at the World Cup was great but that does not even guarantee a place in the Lens side," he warned.

Muller wants the pair to show their worth over the next French season and has urged them to pledge their imme-



Ferdinand Coly and Papa Bouba Diop: Their World Cup exploits may not guarantee first team action at Lens.

iate future to Lens.

He said: "Ferdinand Coly is under contract for another season and I'm hoping he'll tell me he wants to stay here. The same thing goes for Bouba Diop, though I have just heard him say he wants to go to England next season."

As a non-EU player, Bouba Diop, who failed to break into the Lens first team after arriving in France late last season, does not have sufficient international experience to move to the Premiership yet.

Both starred as Senegal reached the quarter-finals of the World Cup, beating France and drawing with Uruguay and Denmark in the group stages, before eliminating Sweden in the second round.

TRAPATTONI TO STAY ON AS ITALIAN COACH

Italy manager Giovanni Trapattoni vowed he wouldn't follow a host of big names who have quit their jobs as national team coach since the World Cup.

Spain's Jose Antonio Camacho became the latest name to give up his job when he resigned last Wednesday and France's Roger Lemerre is expected to be sacked in the following weeks.

However, after being given the green light by the Italian Football Federation (FIGC) to stay on, experienced



Giovanni Trapattoni will still resume as Italian National Coach.

Trapattoni vowed he is already preparing for the country's friendly against Slovenia in August 21.

"I've probably made several mistakes but I am ready to stay on because there is nothing in my mind that says I should go," Trapattoni said during a press conference on Thursday.

"I met with the president Franco Carraro and he confirmed his confidence in me."

"On the 21st of August there will be a friendly (against Slovenia) and we will continue to work as we have been doing."

WORLD CUP QUOTES

WHAT THEY SAID AT THE 2002 WORLD CUP FINALS



"It's a fantastic feeling to be a Brazilian tonight. I worked for two and a half years to be here" - **Ronaldo** whose two goals ended German hopes and gave Brazil a fifth world title.

"Even in my wildest dreams I had never imagined that something like this could happen" - **Ronaldo again**, after banishing the memories of the 1998 World Cup final defeat to France.



"It's really frustrating when you make your one mistake of the whole tournament and you get punished like that" - **German goalkeeper Oliver Kahn** after spilling Rivaldo's shot for Ronaldo to score.

"There's no doubt that Brazil are worthy world champions" - **Germany coach Rudi Voller**.



"As the game went on, we saw their great individual talent, they are so strong in one-on-one situations and in quick passing and that began to give us more and more problems" - **Voller bows to Brazilian brilliance**.



"It's not necessarily the best team which wins. If it were then Brazil would have won the World Cup 14 times" - **German coach Rudi Voller** responding to criticism of his 'robot-like' finalists.



"This is probably the sweetest moment of my whole career" - **England midfielder David Beckham** lays a few ghosts to rest with his penalty winner against Argentina.



"You have to tell it like it is ... we failed to get to grips with this World Cup" - **France coach Roger Lemerre** after the World Cup holders' first-round exit.



"What happened here was robbery" - **Spanish player Ivan Helguera** says bad refereeing handed South Korea quarter-final victory over Spain.



"I hope the result in this World Cup shows Japanese football to the world" - **Japan coach Philippe Troussier** saying goodbye after four years of transforming the co-hosts' footballing fortunes.



"I believe that without Mr. Troussier we would not have produced such a result" - **Japanese midfielder Shinji Ono** salutes the French wizard.



"I think now Korea have nothing to lose. They have gone beyond the expectations of everyone" - **South Korean coach Guus Hiddink** says the pressure is off ahead of the semi-final to Germany which ended in defeat.



"Ahn will never play for Perugia again. What did you expect me to do? That I would keep a player who ruined Italian football" - **enraged Perugia President Luciano Gaucci** after South Korean striker Ahn Jung-Hwan beats Italy with a golden goal.

"The misunderstandings which came to light before and after the Italy-South Korea match have been cleared up" - **Perugia make a u-turn and beg Ahn to return**.

He will never play again for Perugia... which mounted a character assassination against Ahn just because he scored against Italy" - **statement from Ahn's agent**.



"He's a great keeper and has a great future, although maybe he should play a bit more forward, almost like a sweeper" - **Paraguay shot-stopper Jose Luis Chilavert** hopes Spanish keeper Iker Casillas will follow his eccentric example.



"Man, if we reach the semis I'll play naked" - **US defender Tony Sanneh** makes a bold promise but he was spared after the Americans lost 1-0 to Germany in the quarter-final.



"I've always said, and I repeat it, that I'd coach my country's team without being paid a single real" - **Diego Maradona** offering to come to the aid of Argentina after their first-round exit.



"We should have done better with 11 men against 10. We did not use the ball very much" - **Eriksson** says England should have played better against Brazil.



"Joao Pinto punched me in the stomach, on the left side just under the ribs" - **Argentine referee Angel Sanchez** accuses the Portuguese star of attacking him after being shown the red card in the 1-0 defeat by South Korea.



"When those come off then you go from being a buffoon to one of the world's great strategists" - **relieved Irish coach Mick McCarthy** on his late triple substitution which led to the equaliser against Germany.



"We didn't deserve that ending, we deserved to win in normal time and it's sickening" - **Irish coach Mick McCarthy** after the bitter blow of defeat to Spain in a penalty shootout.



"He'd irritated the hell out of me with his diving" - **Irish defender Gary Breen** is not impressed with German forward Miroslav Klose.

WORLD CUP QUOTES ... UNQUOTES



Before we start, boss ...

"I can buy you, your house and your family. You were a ***** player and you're the same as a coach."

- Slovenia's Zlatko Zahovic on his manager Srecko Katanec



"You were a crap player, you are a crap manager. The only reason I have any dealings with you is that somehow you are manager of my country and you're not even Irish, you English ****. You can stick it up your bollocks."

- Roy Keane on Ireland manager Mick McCarthy



And who's not

"I hope Brazil win, though I worry about them. They have the best players in Europe but Brazil doesn't have the structure, planning, training or teamwork of France, England, Argentina or even Portugal."

- Eat your heart out, Pelé



"I'm not convinced by Germany and, by the looks of it, neither is Rudi Völler. He has six strikers in his squad, a sign of uncertainty, and I think any good forward line will cause his defence problems."

- Terry Venables gets it wrong



The Germans are coming

"We are not here to have a great time as we have a job to do and, anyway, Japan is probably not my favourite holiday destination."

- Assistant coach Michael Skibbe endears himself to the locals



"The first game is decisive for the rest of the tournament. We certainly won't underestimate them."

- Oliver Kahn talks up Saudi Arabia - who they then beat 8-0



Bring on the balls

"It is like one of those crazy bouncing balls, those that you play with when you are a kid."

- Italy goalkeeper Gianluigi Buffon gets his excuses in early



"We weren't lucky. It's the Irish who have a flower in their arses! What the referee did makes you want to kill him. He crushed us. And as for the linesman - he's got a spring-loaded arm."

- Manager José Antonio Camacho after Spain beat Ireland



"We never thought about this scenario. We have now used our joker. What can I say? We could have won but now we have to win twice."

- Marcel Desailly bemoans France's 1-0 defeat by Senegal



"Landon Donovan can play up front as one of our two forwards or underneath our two forwards."

- USA's Bruce Arena talks tactics



"I was stunned by the way Cameroon played. It frightened me. I have never seen such a lazy group of players compete in a World Cup."

- Franz Beckenbauer, for once not criticising Germany



And the pundits

"During the Senegal game, I wonder if the French coach thought the spelling of his name had changed. They certainly had le mare."

- Chief pun-maker Barry Davies on Roger



"I've had a few drinks earlier, so excuse me if I slur my words."

- Peter Reid excuses himself during England v Argentina



"What would help the Ecuadorian side is if they could get a glimpse of the possibility of scoring a goal."

- Graham Taylor shows his legendary motivational skills



"They've certainly grown, the Japanese. I mean grown in stature, playing-wise."

- Ron Atkinson narrowly averts a diplomatic incident



"Germany benefited from a lastgasp hand job on the line."

- David Pleat on the unorthodox way Germany's Torsten Frings cleared his line against USA



"Ronaldo: The man who could eat an apple through a tennis racket."

- Gary Lineker

WORLD CUP FINALS



RETURN HOME

